



NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Progress Report



Fall 2009

Administrator's Corner

I would like to open this message by introducing you to Roger Peterson. Roger recently accepted the position of Public Affairs Specialist for the [Nez Perce National Historic Trail](#) (NPNHT). I want to recognize him for his exemplary work and for stepping up to take on this position. He has already earned respect for us within our Administration through his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication to the NPNHT. I know that you will welcome him to our trails community.

I have a long list of items that I want to work on over the next year. These include the need to continue fine tuning our challenge cost share program, launching into our public sensing meetings in preparation for the revision of the NPNHT comprehensive management plan, implementing a trail wide interpretive strategy to update old signs, and finding opportunities for new ones, to name a few.

As Trail Administrator, the stewardship and care of our NPNHT, service to our visitors, education, interpretation, and expansion of our challenge cost share program are some of my core responsibilities. I will continue working to ensure that all Trail visitors have a positive experience, no matter if they visit by foot, horse, motorized, or virtually via the Trail's website.

Stewardship of our natural and cultural resources has always been a core value of mine. Our mission is to manage this treasured landscape of history for the enjoyment of future generations.

Education is a primary responsibility of the NPNHT administration. Visitors should be able to engage and understand the significance of this National Historic Trail. The NPNHT history must be portrayed fully, without bias or embellishment, the good and bad parts of the trail experience told with equal intelligence.

The Trail is truly a classroom helping people understand and appreciate the complexities of the historic events that have shaped it and our lives. There are many partners in the educational community who have welcomed us, and we will continue to reach out to them. We have invested resources in providing accurate and sensitive interpretation along the trail through different mediums such as displays, posters, maps, education trunks, brochures, education guides, videos, website, and kiosks.

The Trail serves as the collective memory of where we have been, the sacrifices we have made to get here, and who we mean to be as a people. By investing in the preservation, interpretation, and restoration of the NPNHT, we offer hope and optimism to each generation of Americans.

I am truly honored to serve as the Administrator for the NPNHT. I will work to do my best, alongside each of you, to uphold this important legacy. Thank you. Now, let's work together to make the NPNHT a landscape of precious memories and a gift for our future trail advocates!

Sandi McFarland
NPNHT Administrator

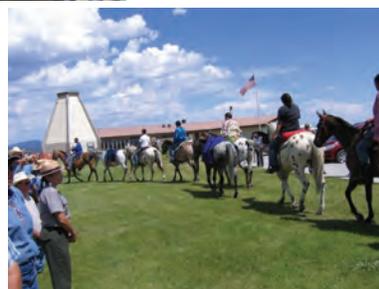


Sandi McFarland, at the Conference on National Scenic and Historic trails in Missoula, Mont., July 2009

2009 Chief Joseph Trail Ride

The 2009 Chief Joseph Trail Ride took place July 19-25, beginning in Darby, Mont., and ending at the Big Hole National Battlefield near Wisdom, Mont.

The following are images of the more than 170 riders arriving at the Big Hole and participating in ceremonies at the visitor center.



Photos provided by the staff of the Big Hole National Battlefield

New Nez Perce Trail Map Available Soon

A new map of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail will be available for sale in the near future. This map will provide visitors with details on a number of activities along the 1,170 mile Trail, which was designated as a National Historic Trail by Congress in 1986.

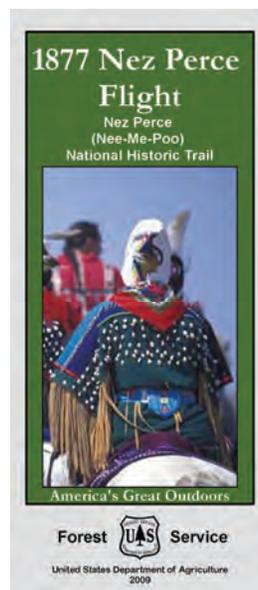
One side of the map provides visitors with an overview of the entire Trail and provides information on modern day travel routes and sites to visit along the Trail.

The reverse side of the map gives people a glimpse back in time and shows how the region looked in 1877.

The Nez Perce flight of 1877 symbolizes the dramatic collision of cultures which continues to shape the west and its people. This route was used in its entirety only once; however, component trails and roads that made up the route bore generations of use prior to and after the 1877 flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce.

This map, with an improved color scheme, replaces the last Nez Perce National Historic Trail map which was last revised in 1995. When available the map can be purchased at Forest Service and National Park Service offices and online through [Discover Your Northwest](#), the [National Forest Store](#), and the [USGS store](#).

Special thanks to everyone who has worked on making this map a reality, especially all the staff of the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Region Cartography shop.



“Heaven On Earth On Horses” (Angel Sobotta)

Thirty-nine members of the [Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club](#) (NPAPHC) recently traveled to Yellowstone Park for a three-day trail ride through the land that our Niimiipuu ancestors rode during the flight of the Nez Perce in 1877. The longest ride was 22 miles from Nez Perce Creek over Mary Mountain and near Mary Lake to the Yellowstone River. The shortest was at Pelican Valley. This is the fourth visit to Yellowstone as a group.



August 22, 2009, marked a historical Niimiipuu event. Mounted on our Appaloosas at Nez Perce Ford in Yellowstone, I was asked to say a prayer. I prayed that we, as Niimiipuu descendants, could gather strength from our ancestors who rode across the river here in 1877. We prayed for the safety of those crossing and noted that it was an historical event. The last crossing of the Niimiipuu was 132 years ago. I prayed that we could learn from our ancestors and live good lives as they intended for their people.

The presence of our ancestors enveloped our spirits as we crossed the first part of shallow water. For the safety of the youth riders only the adult riders crossed the deeper water. My brothers, Jack and Abe Yearout, our “Nez Perce scouts,” scouted out the water and swam their horses across, war whooping in victory on the other side of the river, giving the rest of us courage to join them. In the meantime, Aaron Penney and Ermie Whitman were crossing further up the river. Although the riders’ boots, jeans & packs got wet when crossing, our spirits were not dampened. With smiles and laughter, we galloped in single file upriver on the rocky bank war whooping it up. When we crossed back over the river, the horses got to swim again and then we came out galloping our horses. “Heaven on earth on Horses” describes our experience. The pictures taken of us by the other NPAPHC members of our smiling faces and sparkling eyes reveal how a picture of pure joy looks. When you experience this type of joy, you are experiencing the great love that our Creator has for us.



Sister Ermie Whitman remarked how a long time ago the women and children didn’t have a choice to cross the river during the pursuit of the Niimiipuu:

“Riding across the river with the horses....that was an amazing experience. I can’t even begin to imagine what it was like for our people back then not having a choice to cross the river....contemplating if the water is too deep or is it safe enough to cross. They were fleeing for their lives, and they may have thought the only way to safety was to swim across....with women, children, and horses. It was fight or flight, such a horrible thing for a peaceful people. I continue to believe that our people before us

perished leaving a dream for a peaceful tomorrow.”

(Continued on the next page)



Besides Jack, Abe, Aaron, Ermie and myself, other NPApHC members who rode their horses all the way across the river and back were Emmitt Taylor, Jr., Phillip Mark Wilson and Leroy Williams. Most everyone went to the first island for a group photo and others, including our “elders” (my Moms) Loretta Sobotta and Rosa Yearout, crossed to the second island.

I look at our crossing as a “historical victory” because our Niimiipuu fought a good fight for us in 1877 so that today we, their descendants, could live a good life and be free. So our joy and laughter, I am sure, made our ancestors smile from above.

Also, most memorable to me of our ride was seeing my son, Payton’s big smile and eyes sparkle as we galloped side by side through Pelican Valley and to hear the youth war whooping to express their excitement as they rode.

This historical day ended with a parade and presentation to the public at the Canyon Visitor’s Center about the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and why our ancestors were in Yellowstone in August 1877, about the same time that we were there.
(see photos on this page)



Retired Park Ranger Jerry Mernin of Bozeman, who guided us on our previous visits to Yellowstone, said “Saturday’s presentation at the Canyon Campground Amphitheatre went a long way toward explaining to outsiders the significance and spiritual impact of the Nez Perce Historic Trail. It was very impressive to have all of you recite and acknowledge your ancestors who were participants in the 1877 war.”

Mernin added “It reminded all of us just how recent those bad old times were. When you folks left the stage to shake hands with the audience of park visitors in the tradition of Yellow Wolf, is a moment not to be forgotten by anyone who was there.”

This major event for the NPApHC was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, Nez Perce National Historical Trail, Orofino, Ida., (to inform youth and the public about the Trail, the Nez Perce and the Appaloosa), and the Potlatch Fund in Seattle (to expose Native youth to the outdoors). Qe’ciyew’yew’!



All Of Our Trails Are Sacred (Rosa Yearout)

The 14 million acres of the aboriginal homeland of the Niimiipuu is so far reaching, with much of it inaccessible or roadless, that covering it would be an enormous task if not for our 'iskit kaa sik'em (trails and horses). These trails are sacred because our ancestors used them, often giving their lives along them and are buried there; they have a story to tell us.

[Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club](#) (NPpHC) members want to learn more about the special places along these trails and share the stories with our youth, so our major activities focus on trail riding. Our short day rides of small groups, mostly in the Lapwai area, are funded by our annual dues and fundraising. The longer and larger organized group rides were further away and included Nez Perce historical and cultural presentations. Three big projects with horses and youth were possible through assistance and grants from the....

- Lewis & Clark Trail for a three-day ride last fall to sacred places on the ridge above the Lochsa River, i.e., Chimney Butte, Castle Rock, Smoking Place, and Indian Post Office. Thirty-eight members (riders, wranglers and camp crew) took part, including the following 18 youth and young adults: Olivia Carter, Skye Ventura, Zack Terry, Dakota Zimmerman, Mitaat Taylor, Regine and Marque Wilson, Dakota Kidder, Jerry McCormack, Joslyn-Preston-Chelsey-Rielly-Shelby & Kendall Leighton, Payton-Glory & Grace Sobotta. Aaron Penney and Angel Sobotta spoke at the Smoking Place, where we erected a cairn, and at the Indian Post Office, where a U.S. Forest Service sign states, *"This trail so old it used from time of creation by Nez Perce people to go to Montana to hunt Buffalo and some time to war other tribes of Indians, when Red Bear come to Indians Post Office on this trail, he tell Lewis – Clark and all, stop here, this is very place Indian came to send message and to get Indian spirit medicine and do Indian worship in Indian custom – Here is where the Monster – the Big Coyote come to make powerful medicine for Indian..."* (Sam Lott- Many Wounds)

(Continued on the next page)



NPpHC Youth Riding to Chimney Butte



NPpHC Youth at Castle Rock



NPpHC Youth at Castle Rock



NPpHC Eagle Feathers at Indian Post Office



- Nez Perce Tribal Enterprise to send four of our youth (Bailey Ewing, Brooke Taylor, Olivia Carter and Gloria Garcia) on the Appaloosa Horse Club's annual week-long Chief Joseph Trail Ride (CJTR), which covered 100 miles of the Nez Perce Trail from Darby, Mont., to the Big Hole Battlefield. Also, four of our youth/young adult members - Jalessa Oyenque (Wrangler), Rielly Leighton, Zack Terry & Dakota Zimmerman rode with the Chief Joseph Foundation, which included Lucy Samuels (Jr. Scout) and Katherine Samuels;
- Nez Perce National Park, Big Hole Battlefield, for lodging and travel expenses so that Wilfred "Scotty" and Bessie Scott and Pete Wilson could conduct a ceremony at the Visitors' Center during the CJTR; all of the aforementioned youth rode their horses in the ceremony. Two of the youth – Rielly and Olivia - led horses with empty saddles in memory of all the men, women and children who died at the Big Hole Battle on August 9, 1877; and the
- Nez Perce National Historical Trail for a five-day trail ride through Yellowstone National Park and a parade and presentation at the Canyon Visitor's Center. (See Angel Sobotta's article, "Heaven on Earth on Horses," featuring the NPAPHC's historical crossing of the Yellowstone River at Nez Perce Ford.)



Bessie, Scotty, Jon Kneeling, Emmet and Pete at the Drum



Olivia, horse with empty saddle, Jalessa, Lucy, Katherine, Jon, Bailey, Brooke and Gloria



Rielly, horse with empty saddle, Zack and Dakota



Gloria and Brooke



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 National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The submitted projects will be considered for the 2010 project year funding. Project funding was made available through funds designated to administer the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Completed applications must be post marked by November 30, 2009. The Forest Service and partners should work together on Challenge Cost Share Program(CCSP) projects with mutually beneficial and shared outcomes.

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

Project application forms and instructions for completing the application are available at the Nez Perce National Historic Trail website at www.fs.fed.us/npnht/partners/

Applicants are encouraged to submit their forms electronically. E-mail applications to Sandi McFarland at smcfarland01@fs.fed.us. Proposals may also be mailed to: NPNHT Administrator, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544

For additional information applicants may also contact Sandi McFarland, Trial Administrator, at (208) 476-8334.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail Video Update



Dan Kane at Packers Meadow, Lolo Pass

During fiscal year 2009 Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) Production Manager Dan Kane and staff made a concerted effort to document areas of the Nez Perce Trail from the Montana border to the Canyon Creek battle site. In addition LCSC staff videotaped other areas in Idaho and Oregon. Mr. Kane attended the National Trails Conference held in Missoula, Mont., in July where several presentations on the project were made to conference attendees and agency staff. Cultural activities which were recently videotaped included tribal fishing on the Columbia River, Rapid River, and the memorial event at Big Hole, Mont.

Mr. Kane and members of his production staff recently documented the memorial event at Bears Paw on October 3, 2009.

Additional production is planned this winter for interviews with tribal people and historians. Lewis-Clark State College is currently researching High Definition editing equipment that will be necessary for project completion. Historical photographs are currently being researched and acquisitioned as well.

Production on this video is expected to continue for the next several years. Mr. Kane states that the project is proceeding well and he is looking forward to additional work relative to the project.

By Dan Kane – Lewis-Clark State College



National Public Lands Day

Sign Dedication and Clean-up at the James Kipp National Recreation Area, Montana



On Saturday September 26, 2009, 30 individuals gathered at the [James Kipp National Recreation Area](#) in central Montana.

The Recreation Area is located where U.S. Highway 191 crosses the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, about 40 miles north of Grass Range, Mont.

Participants in this National Public Lands Day event completed a number of tasks which included; installing a Nez Perce Trail interpretive sign, trimming brushes near the boat ramp, and fish cleaning station, clearing trail, and picking up trash within the campground.

Those who assisted in making this event a success included: Jim Evans, Huck Hutson, Roy Zortman, Scott Haight, Sandra Padilla, Craig Flentie, Vinita Shea, Wayne Dahl, Illa Willmore, Carol Hutson, Samantha Mitchell, Vanessa Mitchell, Megant Mitchell, Tristin McCaffree, Hailey Hayden and Andrea Gremaux, Carol McCaffree, Winston Mitchell, Zortman and Warren Willmore, Nancy Dahl, Mona Driskell, and a number of students from Missoula, Mont.

Nationwide, thousands of people donated time to projects improving [public lands](#).



The 12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails

“Gearing up for the Decade of the National Trails: Outreach, Protection and Capacity”

Missoula, Montana ~ July 12-15, 2009. The conference on Scenic and Historic Trails was hosted the by [Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation](#), assisted by the [Nez Perce Trail Foundation](#) (NPTF) and the [Continental Divide Trail Alliance](#).

One of the responsibilities of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation was to organize the field trips for the conference. Conference participants had three field trips options from which to choose. These included a rafting trip on the Blackfoot River, hiking along the Lolo Trail, and a bus trip to visit historic trail sites in the Bitterroot Valley and the Big Hole National Battlefield.

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation hosted the trip to the [Big Hole National Battlefield](#). Thirty-four members of the Partnership for the National Trails Systems guided by U.S. Forest Service Archeologist Mary Williams with assistance by Jim Evans, Foundation Executive Director and Carolynne Merrell Foundation Secretary, visited the Metcalf National Wildlife Reserve and traveled through the beautiful Bitterroot Valley. The group stopped at Ross’s Hole in Sula, Mont., and the top of Chief Joseph Pass, on the Montana and Idaho border, where three National Trail paths cross (Lewis and Clark, Continental Divide and Nez Perce). Continuing on to the Big Hole National Battlefield, the group participated in the dedication of the west entrance project, which was completed by the National Park Service and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. National Park Service personnel gave a special guided tour. The group then returned to Missoula.

See more information about the conference on page 18 of this report.



Ruth Wapato, Rosa Yearout, Myrna Tovey and Loretta Alexander opened the dedication with a Nez Perce prayer.



Birch Creek Project

The Birch Creek Project has benefited from the combined interests and active participation of several private, city, state, and federal entities. The project was initiated through the planning committee of the [Sacajawea Scenic Byway](#) as they looked for a gateway site for the Byway. The [Nez Perce Trail Foundation](#) (NPTF) already had a small interpretive and trail marking project underway for the area. As part of the planning committee, the Foundation, with BLM support, proposed a much larger combined project. With Byway funding, a six-sided kiosk was planned. The City of Leadore, Ida., and the NPTF, with the help of the Salmon Valley Business and Innovation Center, obtained a grant from the Idaho Department of Transportation for the kiosk. A&D Specialties of Leadore provided equipment and the shop area to manufacture the kiosk.

Crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices in Salmon and Idaho Falls, Ida., along with members of the Leadore Chapter of the NPTF provided the labor for construction of the kiosk, which is nearing completion.

The kiosk will hold six interpretive panels. Two NPTF panels will describe an overview of the Nez Perce conflict and the events that occurred at this location. Other panels will provide BLM information on area attractions, the route of the Sacajawea Scenic Byway, and the story of the Agai Dika Lemhi Shoshone homeland.



Teacher In-Service Yellowstone National Park and Work Project

Adventures in Yellowstone

In late July members of the [NPTF](#) along with Kathie White from Yellowstone National Park, Dr. Lee Whittlesey, the Yellowstone Association, and James Garry, conducted a week of instructional activities for a group of history teachers from the University of San Diego Sacramento California Extension. These sixteen history teachers were lead by their instructor Duane Helige.

The group was based at the Canyon Campground in the center of Yellowstone National Park. During their time in the park participants visited a number of significant Nez Perce sites. NPTF President Charlie Moses contributed significantly to this project through his active participation.

These teachers will take the lessons they learned back to classrooms across central California. The result will be hundreds of junior high school students learning more about the Nez Perce story and the connections to Yellowstone National Park.

This pilot program will be evaluated during the 2009-10 school year. Plans are projected to include teachers from Idaho and Montana in next year's project. The main objective of this effort is to provide enriched instruction for teachers. Another bonus of this effort is that the educators can take the traveling trunk program back to their classrooms. The NPTF and the NPNHT does not have the personnel or funds to present the program in individual classrooms. This In-Service course can be taught at many of the locations along the NPHT and in conjunction with [Nez Perce National Historical Park](#) sites.



Group of teachers



Jim Evans and Charlie Moses



Carol Austin, NPTF Instructor



Bob Richard, NPTF Historian and Guide



Nez Perce Trail Foundation Work Project

Recently through the efforts of a number of volunteers from the Cody Chapter of the [Nez Perce Trail Foundation](#) (NPTF), and the University of San Diego Executive Extension at Sacramento, Calif., a three-paneled kiosk entitled “*Escape from Clark Fork Canyon*,” was installed near Clark, Wyo. Foundation Director, Jim Evans and BLM Cody Field Office Archaeologist Kierson Crume enjoyed working cooperatively on this project. The newly installed interpretive sign is a partnership between the non-profit NPTF, the BLM, and the Edelweiss Store in Clark. Thanks to everyone for your efforts to help provide information to travelers along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.



Nez Perce Interpretive Sign Dedication Clark, Wyo.



The Crew: Phil Benezra, Daniel Billings, Maureen Fratis, Phyllis Goossen, Deborah Janssen, Barry Janssen, Colin Johnson, Evin Johnson, Robert Knox, Erica Scott, Lou Gearing, Brad Ward, Duane Heglie, Carol Austin, Kireson Crume (not in order)

Informational Exhibit Installed at Appaloosa Horse Club Museum

Interpretive signs were recently placed in partnership with the [Appaloosa Horse Club Museum](#) on the museum grounds in Moscow, Ida. The three panels tell the story of the 1877 War Trail and the Exile along with the history of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride sponsored annually by the Appaloosa Horse Club. Present at the dedication of the signs was NPTF vice-president, Dick Seymour, Appaloosa Club CEO, Steve Taylor, and Iola and George Hatley, one of the original Chief Joseph Trail Ride founders.



Lewiston Rest Area Montana

Reed and Bowles Trading Post Dedication



A series of interpretive panels, which will provide information about Reed-Bower Trading Post, the 1877 War, and the Exile and Return of the Nez Perce people, were installed on May 28, 2009, near Lewiston, Mont.

The Lewiston Historical Society and members of the Lewistown Chapter of the NPTF constructed the interpretive signs which were placed at the Kiowa's Rest Area located a mile west of Lewistown on Montana Highway 3.

These displays will educate travelers about the story of the flight of the Nez Perce.

Thanks to everyone involved in this effort.



Zane Fulbright BLM



Duane Ferdinand, City Planner

Markers Placed Along the Trail in SW Montana

Gibbons Pass to Big Hole

The Salmon Chapter of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) and personnel from the Wisdom Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service placed trail markers on the newly constructed section of the Nez Perce Trail. This section of trail was constructed by the Nez Perce Youth Trail team.



2010 Desk Planner

The annual desk planner is in production and should be available before the end of the year. The popular planner features images taken along the Trail by Harold Pfeiffer, along with historic quotes connected to the Nez Perce and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Call Roger Peterson at (406) 329-3540 or e-mail rmpeterson@fs.fed.us if you would like to be added to the mailing list for distribution.

Special thanks to Joe Guarisco who helped with layout and design and Wilfred "Scottie" Scott from the [Nez Perce Tribe](#) who provided valuable information.



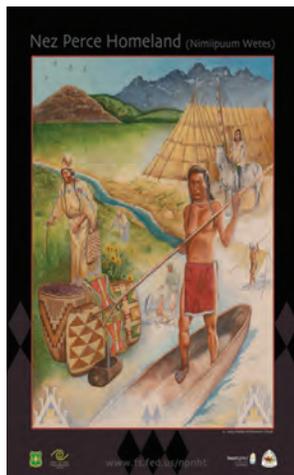
New Poster Features Nez Perce Artist

The 2009 full-color Nez Perce NHT Poster will be available in November. This year's poster features the work of Nez Perce artist [Nakia Williamson-Cloud](#). The art is entitled Nez Perce Homeland (Nimiipuum Wetes).

Williamson-Cloud has painted a number of pieces for the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service and his work can be found along the Trail.

"The function of what art does in our community is to perpetuate a way of life, to perpetuate a way of seeing the world and relating to the land that we still live on. The rivers and the mountains are still important to us. As a people, as all people, we depend on those resources no matter how far we separate ourselves from the actual gathering of the foods, or gathering of the different resources that we need," said Williamson-Cloud.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this poster contact either Sandi McFarland at smcfarland01@fs.fed.us or Roger Peterson at rmpeterson@fs.fed.us.



Iwetemlaykin At the edge of the lake, a state park is born

Written by Joyce Osterloh, Correspondent

[LaGrande Observer](#)

October 15, 2009 03:18 pm

New state park and heritage site, located at north end of Wallowa Lake, hold place of honor in the history and culture of American Indians

JOSEPH — "This park tells a story about life and the land we live on," Gov. Ted Kulongoski remarked Saturday (October 10) in his address at the official opening and dedication of the new Iwetemlaykin State Park and Heritage Site.

"The beauty we see here now was created by glaciers, but the people of the Northwest have also moved across this land. We all have been shaped by this special place and will work to try to preserve it," Kulongoski said

The park and heritage site is at the north end of Wallowa Lake near Joseph.

Iwetemlaykin, Nez Perce for "at the edge of the lake" and pronounced ee-weh-TEMM-lye-kinn, is the governor's park-a-year for 2009.

According to Kulongoski, this is the sixth state park to open since he challenged the state parks department to open one park per year when he took office in 2003. No new parks had been built since 1964, he said.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department funded \$3.2 million of the \$4.1 million purchase price of the property in 2007, funded by dedicated money from the Oregon Lottery profits. *(Cont. on the next page)*



Brooklyn Baptiste, vice-chair of the Nez Perce executive committee, opens the dedication ceremony of the Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site Saturday near Wallowa Lake. "We have secured a large piece of land for a very good purpose. It is a good example of what can happen when people work together," he said. *Photo courtesy of The [LaGrande Observer](#)*



Keith Red Thunder of the Colville Reservation said, "It's good to be home again. Many people we started (this project) with 20 years ago are gone." Photo courtesy of [The LaGrande Observer](#)

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe each donated \$300,000 to Oregon State Parks Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Oregon's natural scenic, cultural, historic, recreational sites.

Oregon State Parks Trust and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department share title to the land.

Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site, formerly known as the Marr Ranch property, lies between Joseph and the north end of Wallowa Lake. The property borders a Nez Perce National Historical Park, site of the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery to the south. The 61.93 acres of grassy hills and slopes lie at the tip of the terminal moraine left by the glaciers that formed Wallowa Lake.

Two agricultural irrigation ditches and the Wallowa River run through the property.

Knight's Pond is between the ditches near the river. The city of Joseph abuts the northern boundary of the park.

Joseph City Council member Mark Lacey, speaking at the dedication on behalf of the city of Joseph, reminded the audience that the site is within the city's urban growth boundary, making it unique in the park system. He said the residents of Joseph understand the power of place and cherish their connection to the land.

County Commissioner Mike Hayward said as a member of the commission he has lost count of the number of applications for development of the Marr Ranch Property. He said that it became evident to him that people in Wallowa County did not want this property to be developed; they wanted to see it preserved as an asset to the city of Joseph and all of Wallowa County. *(Cont. on the next page)*



L-R: Sandi McFarland NPNHT Administrator, Brooklyn Baptiste, vice-chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe, Larry Greene, Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee member and Ted Kulongoski Governor of Oregon



For the American Indian people, who call the lands of the Wallowa home, the designation of this piece of land as a state park and heritage site is a significant achievement. The grazing lands, traditional summer camping grounds, and sacred areas on the moraines of Wallowa Lake and along the Wallowa River hold a place of honor in their history and culture.

Local tradition and tribal accounts reveal that the Marr Ranch was the site of a major sockeye salmon fishery.

The foot of Wallowa Lake, the north end, is the starting point of the Nez Perce or Nee Mee Poo National Historical Trail that was created to memorialize the flight of the Nez Perce and Cayuse from the Wallowas to join other Nez Perce and Palouse bands fleeing to Montana in 1877 to escape captivity and annihilation at the hands of the U.S. Cavalry.

Brooklyn Baptiste, vice chairman of the Nez Perce Executive Committee, said that the establishment of the Marr Ranch as a state heritage site is a good example of what can happen when people work together. He said it will bring peace back to those who died so long ago so far away from their home in the Wallowas.

Relatives of remaining Nez Perce lie in unmarked graves on the lands within the park.

He thanked many local residents, including Joe McCormick, Jeff Whiting, and Peggy Kite-Martin for their efforts in securing the acreage as a sacred resting place for his relatives and for future generations to enjoy.

Keith Red Thunder of the Chief Joseph Band of the Nez Perce from the Colville Reservation, and Antone Minthorn, chairman of the board for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, both recalled the controversy and opposition to the development of the Marr Ranch Property.

Tension between whites and Native Americans and among the tribes characterized the discussions in the many meetings held to negotiate the acquisition of the land, Red Thunder remembered.

“It is good to be home,” he said.

Armon Minthorn, who gave the opening and closing prayers for the dedication, said, “ Today all of our skins are the same because of what we have in our hearts. We will talk about this day for a very long time. We are making history today and you are part of it.”

According to the Oregon State Parks Trust website, the purchase of this property provides permanent protection for noteworthy cultural and historical resources and important riparian areas along the Wallowa River. Because this site is intended for the protection of these areas, many recreational activities are not appropriate here.

Appropriate activities, according to the park master plan, are limited to walking trails, enjoying scenic viewpoints and wildlife viewing. Off-road vehicle use, camping, horseback riding and group activities that require buildings are offered at other nearby sites such as the county lake access at the foot or north end of Wallowa Lake and Wallowa Lake State Park at the south end of the lake.



L-R: Brooklyn Baptiste, vice-chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe, Sandi McFarland NPNHT Administrator, Cindy Sloan Nez Perce Department of Fisheries Resources Management Watershed Division.



NPNHT Comprehensive Management Plan

U.S. Forest Service staff have been working with members of the Enterprise Team, [Recreation Solutions](#), to make updates to the Community Involvement Plan portion of the NPNHT Comprehensive Plan and beginning to organize for future sensing meetings. The original plan signed in 1991 needs to be updated to include modern management challenges, trail threats, interpretive plans, and partnership strategies. This will be a multi-phased project. Using information gathered from internal agency scoping, Recreation Solutions will first develop a communication strategy and timeline for working with communities and stakeholders along the NPNHT. Stay abreast of developments which will be posted on the Trail's website. www.fs.fed.us/npnht/.

Report to Nez Perce General Council September 2009

By Scott Eckberg Nez Perce National Historical Park, Idaho Unit Manager

The following is a report of activities at [Nez Perce National Historical Park](#) since the Park's spring 2009 General Council report:

2009 park visitation through August 1 was 30,201 at Big Hole (increase of 8.9%); 3,139 at Bear Paw (up .8%), and 56,887 visitors, just under this time in 2008, at Spalding, Ida.

Tribal consultation for new Big Hole museum exhibits took place in Richland and Pendleton; exhibit fabrication/installation is scheduled for 2010. The visitor center added a larger observation deck this summer, and is in line to get a new roof. Big Hole also hosted more than 170 riders during the Chief Joseph Trail Ride in July.

A design team visited the Spalding visitor center in August to identify ways the structure can be expanded in future, funding permitting, to accommodate new exhibits, staff and meeting space. Funding for first phase film production to replace the current film is expected in 2010. This project will involve close tribal consultation.

The park's resource management program continued its camas monitoring activities at Big Hole and the Weippe Prairie site, in cooperation with the NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network. Field work at the latter site occurred with student participation from 3 area high schools (Timberline, Craigmont, and Lapwai). A census of Lemhi Penstemon at Big Hole was recently updated.

The curatorial division is correcting deficiencies in several museum accession records. The first phase, completed last fall, reviewed 3,500 items and their records in two early park accessions. The next phase will address the eight remaining early accessions, for about 4,000 more objects.

Vandalism to the petroglyphs at Buffalo Eddy was reported and repaired in August, and other resource management/maintenance needs for this site have been documented for correction. The Asotin County, Wash., site has since been transferred to the park Idaho unit manager's jurisdiction for closer monitoring and coordination from Spalding.

Interpretive staff conducted a Kids in Parks program with Winchester Lake State Park on June 20 and August 15; scheduled public activities and presentations at Spalding and other park sites; and staffed the Spalding agency cabin on summer weekends. The park also dedicated the new visitor center wall mural and canoe exhibit on July 14, with a blessing by Horace Axtell and a talk by the artist, [Nakia Williamson-Cloud](#).



Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails Attendees Flock to the Garden City

The 12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails held in Missoula, Mont., this past July and hosted by the [Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation](#) with assistance from the [Nez Perce Trail Foundation](#) and the [Continental Divide Trail Alliance](#) was a great success.

This year's conference featured a new element with attendance by the next generation of trail leaders. More than 30 youth 18-25 years of age from all over the country, including New Hampshire, Florida, and Hawaii, attended the conference as trail apprentices. A youth scholarship program was created to assist in travel costs. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) sponsored two Nez Perce Tribal members to attend. The young people were coupled with trail mentors to share knowledge, skills, experiences, and perspectives. They attended sessions on various trail skills and stewardship, and worked one day at Travelers Rest State Park, near Lolo, Mont., to reclaim an old roadway with native plants and do trail maintenance work on the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails in that area.

This year's conference reached a record attendance mark with 200 people attending from across the country. The NPNHT also sponsored Nez Perce Tribal members to come to Missoula to make presentations to conference attendees and provide two traditional lunches and one evening meal.

The logo for this year's Conference was designed by NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland and Recreation Solutions produced place mats for the dining tables. Trail staff and partners also developed t-shirts and bandanas which were made available to those attending.

Thanks to everyone who make this one of the best conferences ever! (*see photos on the next page*)

Hit the Trails With Kansas City Public Television

Staff from the Nez Perce National Historic Trail has been in communication with the team at Kansas City Public Television as they gear up and submit funding requests for their proposed program *Hit the Trails*. This effort will be part of a television series that will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our National Historic and Scenic Trails.

Kansas City Public Television submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities in August of 2009.

Trail staff is looking forward to being part of a team that wishes to thoughtfully present the story behind the National Historic and Scenic Trails and to engage a large audience in a new and exciting multi-media format.

Look for more information on this effort in the future.



UPCOMING 2010 Events:

- February 20-25 -- Hike the Hill: American Hiking Society, Washington, DC
- April 24 -- Red Heart Band Memorial, Vancouver, WA
- May -- Historic Trails Workshop, San Antonio, TX (*more info. to come*)
- June 19 -- White Bird Battle Memorial, White Bird, ID
- June 18, 19, 20 -- Chief Joseph & Warriors Memorial Powwow, Lapwai, ID
- August 7 -- Big Hole Battle Memorial, Wisdom, MT
- August 13, 14, 15 -- Chief Looking Glass Days & Powwow, Kamiah, ID
- October 2 -- Bear's Paw Battle Memorial, Chinook, MT
- November 14-17-- National Trails Symposium: Chattanooga, TN



Images from the 12th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails



Conference attendees enjoyed an evening of presentations by members of the Nez Perce Tribe and outstanding Native American cuisine. A special thanks to everyone involved in helping to make this meal a resounding success



Conference attendees take a hike along the Lolo Trail



Students from across the country received [Tread Lightly](#) Training.



Joel Holtrop Deputy Chief of the National Forest System addresses the conference.



A meeting of NPNHT partners was held at the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Region Headquarters just prior to the start of the conference.



USDA Secretary Vilsack Announces Economic Recovery Projects Along the NPNHT

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) will receive \$240,000 of [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA) funds to hire summer workers to improve more than 100 miles of trails along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

These projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for Forest Facilities and Trails were announced by Secretary Tom Vilsack on July 21, 2009. “The Recovery Act projects we’re announcing today are central to creating jobs and building a better, stronger economy in the future,” said Secretary Vilsack. “These projects exemplify President Obama’s commitment to sustainability, reducing our environmental footprint, and increasing energy efficiency, which will benefit the 178 million people who visit the National Forests each year, while generating additional tourism and stimulating local economies.”



These funds will be used to hire unemployed youth and young adults – including a youth group from the [Nez Perce tribe](#) – for seasonal trail maintenance work. Work will include clearing the trail, replacing hundreds of rotten, non-functioning water bars important for erosion control and removing downed timber and other vegetation. The Musselshell Trail Bridge and the Weippe Boardwalk Bridge along the NPNHT will be stabilized for visitor safety, to reduce erosion into nearby streams, and protect a fragile wetland environment. The Weippe boardwalk bridge restoration work will improve disabled access to this segment of the trail and provide a unique experience for visitors of all mobility skill levels.

Under an agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe, funds will also be used to create and install an interpretive panel and life-size metal silhouette at the [Lolo Pass Visitor Center](#) on the Montana Idaho border.

These projects improve visitors’ recreation experience, provide employment opportunities, and protect national forest resources on this national landmark.

“We are very thrilled to receive this investment in the future of the NPNHT, which will provide jobs and add to visitor experiences along this sacred historic trail,” said Trail Administrator Sandi McFarland.





News From the National Forests:

Beaverhead-Deerlodge

Forest staff is working on a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) application to obtain approximately 320-acres of a privately owned in-holding along Bloody Dick and Selway Creeks, within the [Dillon Ranger District](#) in southwest Montana. This tract of land abounds with potential for public recreation use and development. It would provide for the development of hiking trails, picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, photography, and general outdoor activities to enhance visitor experiences. Acquisition of this land would insure the continued protection and preservation of the Nez Perce (Nee-Mee-Poo) National Historic Trail.

The area is located in the south Big Hole Mountain Range, a high elevation range rich in biodiversity for both flora and fauna. Numerous tributaries, including Selway Creek, converge within this area from Bloody Dick Creek, a major tributary to the Beaverhead River which then flows into the Big Hole River. The proposed acquisition is situated along a “High Potential Route Segment” of the trail. The parcel contains a ¼ mile long segment of the officially designated route along the Bloody Dick roadway (Forest Road 1505), and lies immediately adjacent to the designated trail route for an additional 1 ½ miles. Federal acquisition of the land would allow for the continued protection, preservation and interpretation of this important National Historic Trail.

Mark B. Sant, South Zone Archaeologist
and Gary E. Howard, Lands Program Manager

Clearwater

The NPNHT provided \$20,000 in funding to the [Clearwater National Forest](#) this past fiscal year. With those funds the Forest was able to stretch them to include the following.

Nez Perce Trail Maintenance: Through an agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe, \$12,000 was used to accomplish trail maintenance on the Forest. More than 18 miles of maintenance and naturalization work were completed this year on the Lochsa Ranger District. As a result, crew members acquired hands-on-training in trail maintenance techniques and other technical training. Crew members learned about the Clearwater National Forest trails system management, including how public land managers strive to balance resource protection with user interests, while at the same time minimizing user conflicts. Through their efforts the crew played a valuable role in implementing trail management plans within the Nez Perce Tribe's traditional territory.

Clearwater Forest Trail Crew: Completed approximately 50 miles of maintenance and naturalization work between Beaver Dam Saddle and White Sands Campground. Volunteers with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation also performed trail maintenance under a new partnership.

Interpretation: A part-time staff position at the Lolo Pass Visitors' Center promoted the NPNHT. Forest staff provided a wide range of one on one interpretation and also helped orient visitors.

Lolo Trail Ranger Program: Interaction with visitors and interpretation of the Lolo section of the Trail was ongoing throughout the past summer. Rangers patrolled the NPNHT corridor doing resource protection, campsite cleanup, and visitor orientation, along with providing travelers with information and interpretation. Trail logos and signposts were maintained and replaced.

Carol A. Hennessey
Program Leader for Wilderness, Trails, Outfitter-Guides/Recreation Special Uses





News From the National Forests cont.

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

There are two efforts going on along the NPNHT both on and off the [Caribou-Targhee National Forest](#). At the Camas battle site in Clark County, Ida., planning has begun for an interpretive sign at the parking lot and signed interpretive points along the trail. The project is funded by a federal grant through the NPNHT and the Idaho Transportation Department. Additional archeological survey work still needs to be completed on this project.

The Ashton/Island Park Ranger District is coordinating the effort for an interpretive display with Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) which will be placed at the Howard Springs Day Use site at Targhee Pass. The display will be similar to others along the Trail; with three metal silhouette figures and three interpretive panels. The District is coordinating with Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at Fort Hall on the information for the third panel which will describe local history of this portion of the Trail. Jim Evans, Foundation Executive Director, is scheduling the display to be installed sometime in October.

Gallatin

Jane Ruchman, Forest Landscape Architect and Developed Recreation Program Manager, reports that the interpretive sculpture of three Nez Perce riders located on the [Gallatin National Forest](#), east of Cooke City, Mont., is holding up well. Ruchman had some braces installed behind the sheet-steel sculpture and interpretive panel to strengthen and reinforce them to withstand that area's deep snow.

The sculpture, created by accomplished Nez Perce sculptor Abraham Yearout, was unveiled to a large crowd and a ceremony with traditional blessings, prayers of protection interwoven with drumming and songs of the drum group Nez Perce Nation in October of 2004. The sculpture and interpretive panel were funded by the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and is located along the Nez Perce Trail auto tour route on the [Beartooth Scenic Byway](#).





News From the National Forests cont.

Lolo

The [Lolo National Forest](#) recently completed a study and manuscript for culturally modified trees ([CMT](#)) along the Lolo National Historic Landmark. The study addressed CMT's along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and the Lewis and Clark NHT. The results were twofold. First, past research was developed and a comprehensive bibliography was assembled to assist with further research. Second, a field investigation was conducted to identify CMT's on the Lolo Trail to provide up-to-date records for the Forest. A total of 23 trees were recorded. Funding to accomplish this work was provided by the NPNHT. Forest archaeologist Ed DeCleva consulted with the [Nez Perce Tribe](#) and the [Confederated Tribes of the Salish and Kootenai](#) of the Flathead nation. Both tribes requested that no intrusive techniques be conducted (tree boring) on the CMT's. One tree was a Douglas fir and the rest were Ponderosa Pine. All trees were living except for one.



Ed DeCleva, Forest Archaeologist

Wallowa-Whitman

The short 7 mile Wallowa Mountains segment of the NPNHT on the [Wallowa-Whitman National Forest](#) begins along the Dug Bar road over Lone Pine Saddle and ends at the Snake River where the tribe made a dangerous river crossing in the spring of 1877.



The trail commemorates the flight of the Nez Perce from their homelands while being pursued by the U.S. Army. Chief Joseph, Chief Looking Glass, Chief White Bird, Chief Ollokot, Chief Lean Elk, and others led nearly 750 Nez Perce men, women, and children and twice that many horses over 1,170 miles through the mountains, on a trip that lasted from June

to October of 1877.

In 2009 the Forest received \$10,000 for trail and site maintenance on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Work accomplished with these funds included:

- Tread reconstruction on approximately 1.5 miles of trail.
- Drainage structure cleaned, rebuilt, or replaced more than 7-miles of trail.
- Log-out and brushing of more than 7-miles of trail.





News From the National Park Service:

Nez Perce National Historical Park

On July 14, 2009, a new exhibit was dedicated at the Spalding Visitor Center of [Nez Perce National Historical Park](#) along with an open house to showcase the new curatorial storage system. The exhibit includes a 47-foot mural that depicts the village at the confluence of Lapwai Creek and the Clearwater River as it would have appeared around 1800. Also included in the exhibit is a dugout canoe from the Nez Perce Tribe's collection. During the ceremony, Tribal Elder Horace Axtell performed a blessing and prayer, Superintendent Gary Somers gave opening remarks, and the mural artist Nakia Williamson-Cloud discussed his vision for the mural and his process for completing the painting. After the dedication, visitors were offered tours of the newly installed storage system that houses the museum collection.

Terry O'Halloran
Chief of Interpretation

Big Hole National Battlefield

The historical Chief Joseph Trail Ride began in Darby, Mont., and traveled to the [Big Hole National Battlefield](#) near Wisdom, Mont. The ride took place from July 19 to 25. The ride closely retraced one portion of the 1,170-mile trek the Nez Perce made during their flight from the U.S. Cavalry in 1877.

The Chief Joseph Trail Ride came into the Big Hole on July 23rd. More than 170 riders entered the park through the newly constructed west gate interpretive area. The next day all the support personnel and the riders came into the park for guided tours, to visit the museum, and see the interpretive film.

Two rangers from Nez Perce NHP in Idaho came to the Big Hole to help with the special programs. That afternoon, Wilfred "Scottie" Scott led a ceremony in front of the visitor center for all who rode and supported the ride. To close the program, a moving, rider-less horse ceremony was led by several teenage Nez Perce riders. Big Hole NB staff enjoyed hosting this event would like to thank everyone involved. (*See photos on the riders on page 2*)

Steve Black
Superintendent
Big Hole National Battlefield

Bear Paw Battlefield

Bear Paw Battlefield Volunteers Feature Nez Perce Trail

The summer of 2009, saw the start of a new volunteer program for Amtrak from Havre, Mont., to Minot, N. Dak. Fifteen Hi-Line natives volunteered to ride the train and give interpretive programs featuring [Bear Paw Battlefield](#) and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The two-day trip took two volunteers to Minot and back once a week. Volunteers were able to offer formal and informal interpretation on the NPNHT to over 400 people a day during the peak season. Maps, brochures, and hands-on Nez Perce items were made available to U.S. and international travelers. The 2009 trips were such a success that in summer 2010, two trips a week will leave Havre to inform summer tourists about the NPNHT.

Stephanie Martin
Park Ranger
Bear Paw Battlefield



New Faces Along the Trail:

Weldon to Lead Forest Service Northern Region



U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell recently announced the appointment of Leslie Weldon as Regional Forester of the Northern Region of the Forest Service. Weldon will oversee 15 national forests and 4 national grasslands within the states of Montana, Idaho and North Dakota. She is currently the External Affairs Officer for the US Forest Service in Washington, D.C. Weldon is filling the position previously occupied by Tidwell.

Weldon began her career as a summer hire on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington fighting fire and surveying wildlife. Since then she held biologist positions on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, at the National Headquarters and in the Northern Regional Office. She also served as Stevensville District Ranger on the Bitterroot National Forest, as Liaison to the U.S.

Army and as Executive Policy Assistant to former Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck. Weldon was Forest Supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest from 2000 - 2007.

Weldon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Virginia Tech. She and her husband Michael Weldon have twin sons who attend Oregon State University.

She succeeds Thomas Tidwell as the Regional Forester and will begin her new assignment later this fall.

Dave Bull Named Recreation, Lands, Minerals, Wilderness and Heritage Director

Acting Regional Forester Jane Cottrell announced that Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Dave Bull has been selected as the Forest Service's Northern Region Director of Recreation, Wilderness, Lands, Minerals and Cultural Heritage programs.



It seems fitting that Bull, Forest Supervisor of a national forest with such extensive and diverse recreation opportunities as the Bitterroot, would be chosen to accept these new responsibilities. "The position of Director of Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness resources is a challenging, complex position working collaboratively with people who care deeply about the resources and opportunities to enjoy them," explained Cottrell. "Dave offers a wealth of experiences in these areas and the leadership skills required to help us be successful stewards of these programs on the forests and grasslands in Idaho, Montana and North Dakota.

Bull served as Forest Supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest from 2002 until assuming the Director's role in September of 2009. He brings experience in fire, timber, recreation and legislative affairs programs at local Ranger Districts, Forest Headquarters and the Forest Service's national office. He and his wife, Robin, who teaches kindergarten in Hamilton, Mont., have four daughters.

Rick Brazell Assumes Role as Clearwater Forest Supervisor



In September Rick Brazell accepted the position of Forest Supervisor for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. Rick served as Forest Supervisor on the Colville National Forest (NF) from 2003 to present. He reported on October 12, 2009. Brazell replaces Tom Reilly who announced his retirement this past summer following 32 years of service, the past four as Forest Supervisor on the Clearwater National Forest.

Brazell earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from West Texas A&M University in 1975. He earned his MS in Wildlife Science at Utah State University in 1982. He started his Forest Service career as the Forest Biologist on the Ashley NF in Vernal, Utah. Brazell served as District Ranger at the LBJ and Caddo Grasslands in Decatur, Tex., from 1996-1999. He was the

Renewable Resources Staff Officer for Region 2 from 1999-2003.

Brazell was the Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Pike-San Isabel NF in 2001 and Acting Forest Supervisor at the San Juan NF and San Juan Resource Area (BLM) in 2002. Brazell also was detailed as the Acting Forest Supervisor at the Wenatchee/Okanogan NF in 2005 and Acting Deputy Regional Forester in Region 6 in 2008.

Experience in fire management as an incident management team member, working with the public, collaborative efforts, stewardship contracting, volunteer work, and strong ties with tribal governments are some of Brazell's strong points.



Matter To Serve As Missoula District Ranger



In June the Lolo National Forest selected Paul Matter, a District Ranger on the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon, as the new Missoula District Ranger.

Matter received a Bachelor of Science in forestry from Michigan State University in 1979. He also completed a two year program in forest engineering from Oregon State University in 1991. His first Forest Service job was with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in 1976, as a seasonal surveying aid. He later worked as a firefighter with the Texas Canyon Hotshots on the Angeles National Forest in California, and beginning in 1979 worked for several years on the Eldorado National Forest in the Lake Tahoe area of northern California.

Matter worked on the Eldorado and then Klamath National Forests for ten years, starting out as forestry technician. He then accepted a position on the Sitka Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest in 1991 as the Supervisory Forester. In 1998 he was selected as the Hoonah District Ranger on the Tongass and served there until accepting the Detroit District Ranger position.

Reflecting on his new assignment, Matter noted that he enjoys the challenges and opportunities that come with being a District Ranger, where “we have an obligation to preserve and maintain our natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations,” said Matter. “I love being a District Ranger. It’s the best job in the whole agency for connecting with employees, local communities, and still maintaining a tie to the field.”

Matter said his new job fits with his philosophy to seek new opportunity and contribute to building partnerships with local communities.

Forest Service Names Regional Archaeologist

Carl Davis has assumed the duties as the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Archaeologist. His career has spanned the past 29 years. Most recently he served as the Archaeologist for the Helena National Forest. He was raised in Dillon Montana.



Davis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975 from the University of Montana and a Masters in 1978 from the University of Pittsburgh.

Davis began his career as a seasonal Archaeologist on the Kootenai and Custer National Forests. He has also served as a Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liason on the Deschutes, Williamette and Siuslaw National Forest’s in the Pacific Northwest. He also held the positions of assistant Recreation Staff for the Williamette and Recreation Staff Officer for the Siuslaw and Helena National Forests.

Davis’s professional expertise and interests include cultural history of the northern Great Plains, Northern Rockies and High Plains, cultural resources management, interpretation and public information and archaeological law enforcement.

Davis and his partner Sarah, who is the Heritage Program Leader for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, have two college age children and live in Missoula, Mont.



Garry Edson Transfers From Ninemile Ranger District to be Regional Trails Coordinator

Garry Edson recently accepted the position of Regional Trails Coordinator for the Northern Region of the U.S. Forest Service.

A forestry graduate of Paul Smith's College in upper state New York Edson transferred to the University of Montana and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Forest Management and Forest Soils in 1977 and Geology degree in 1979.

Edson started his Forest Service career work several summers as a seasonal employee. His first permanent appointment with the agency was on the Willamette National Forest in western Oregon where he spent six years on the Detroit Ranger District working in a variety of disciplines including Lands, Special Uses and Minerals, Presale, Timber Administration, Silviculture and Business Administration.



In 1985 Edson transferred to the Pike San Isabel National Forest to be the Resource Staff Officer on the Pikes Peak Ranger District working in the urban interface of the front range of Colorado.

In 1990 Edson transferred to the Shoshone National Forest to be a special projects coordinator, serving as liaison to the Federal Highway Administration and Wyoming Department of Transportation. During his time on the Shoshone NF he coordinated the environmental planning and design for two highway projects: Cody, Wyo., to the east entrance of Yellowstone National Park (Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway) and the [Chief Joseph Scenic Byway](#).

From 1993 until now Edson served as District Ranger on the Washakie Ranger District in Wyoming (1993-1999), the Northwood Ranger District in Colorado (1999-2002) and the Ninemile Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest in Montana (2002-2009).

Edson and his family have lived in Missoula, Mont., for the past seven years, and currently have one daughter in elementary school. Her activities are his primary focus outside of work.

DeCleva Assumes Reins as Lolo National Forest Archaeologist



Ed DeCleva reported in February as the new Forest Archaeologist for the [Lolo National Forest](#).

DeCleva was born and raised in Liberty, Missouri.

DeCleva served four years in the U.S. Army as an infantryman and also served with the 101st Airborne (Fort Campbell, KY) and 35th Infantry (Schofield Barracks, HI).

DeCleva received his formal Anthropology education from the University of Missouri, Columbia and University of Manchester, England. He also studied Environmental Management at Duke University.

DeCleva's background includes 10 years of archaeology experience with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in the Alaska Region. He also worked for eight years archaeology and environmental management experience with Federal Highway Administration in Colorado, Alaska and Oregon Division Offices. During this time DeCleva also worked on projects throughout those states and managed projects on public lands in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, California, Hawaii and Guam.

Before reporting to the Lolo National Forest in February of 2009, DeCleva spent three years as the Forest Archaeologist on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona and New Mexico.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and feel honored about the opportunity to work with heritage resources in Montana," said DeCleva.

DeCleva enjoys spending time with his wife (Elaine) and son (Derek - age 7). They enjoying hiking and recreational archery (recurve), among many other outdoor activities.



Yellowstone Names Tobin Roop Branch Chief for Cultural Resources

A native of Western Kansas, Tobin Roop, reported to Yellowstone National Park as the Branch Chief for Cultural Resources in September.

Roop completed his undergraduate degree in anthropology at Kansas State University in 2001. He is presently finishing his masters in anthropology with an emphasis in cultural resource management from the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Prior to his arrival at Yellowstone Roop served as the Chief of Maintenance and Cultural Resources at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas from 2007 to 2009. While at Tallgrass Prairie he managed the former Spring Hill / Z Bar Ranch complex, an 11,000 acre National Historic Landmark, which preserves a remnant of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Roop oversaw maintenance, facility operations and cultural resource management activities at and worked extensively with the park partners including The Nature Conservancy and the Kansas Park Trust.

Prior to working at Tallgrass, Roop served from 2003 to 2007 as the Vanishing Treasures Park Archeologist at Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in central New Mexico. At this monument he was responsible for cultural resource management activities which centered around three nationally significant pueblo ruins sites and the associated ruins of 17th century Spanish missions. Roop was responsible for compliance and management activities with both natural and cultural resources and consultation with affiliated Native American tribes ranging from Arizona to Oklahoma.

Prior to joining the National Park Service Roop worked on various archaeological projects throughout the Midwest and Southwestern United States.

Roop and his wife Jennifer have two children, Zachary and Veronika. As a family they enjoy hiking, camping and spending time outdoors. They are excited to explore and learn more about the greater Yellowstone area.



Trail Welcomes New Public Affairs Officer



Roger Peterson was recently named as Public Affairs Officer for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). Roger is a native of Missoula, Mont., and is thrilled to have the opportunity to return to work on the NPNHT.

Peterson is a graduate of the University of Montana where he received his BA in History/Political Science.

Peterson served with the U.S. Forest Service in the public affairs office of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Vancouver, WA, since 1990. For the past twelve years Peterson has performed a variety of public affairs duties for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

"I am looking forward to working with all the people connected to the story of the Trail. There is an amazing rich history and culture connected to these lands and the people who have lived on these lands over time," said Peterson. "It is extremely important that all voices be heard as we strive to tell the whole story surrounding the Trail and its legacy and manage this sacred resource for future generations."

Peterson enjoys travel, photography, reading, movies and spending time with friends and family. "I am looking forward to reconnecting with life in the intermountain west. The mountains, rivers and valleys of Montana and Idaho hold a special place in our hearts, said Peterson."

Peterson will work for the NPNHT from the Northern Region Headquarters of the US Forest Service in Missoula, MT. Peterson and his wife Debbie, along with their dogs, will make their home in Missoula.

At Nez Perce National Historical Park two tribal members joined the park's interpretive division at Spalding. Naomi Wood, who attends Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo Mont., was a seasonal ranger hired through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP). Vivian Wilson was hired through the Student Career Enhancement Program (SCEP); her position can be converted to a permanent position upon graduation from Lewis-Clark State College.



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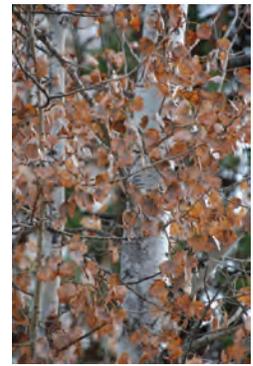


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Fall Color Along the Nez Perce NHT

Winter came early to areas of the region with record low temperatures recorded on October 10 and valley snow before Halloween. Along U.S. Hwy 12 from Lolo, Mont., to Lolo Pass the trees are showing the impact of the recent record cold snap. The deciduous trees along the creek bottom have all turned various shades of brown. However, western larch is now putting on a show with shades of yellow on the slopes so there will still some fall color to be seen over the next couple of weeks.



"US Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer."