



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report* Winter 2016



Administrator's Corner

Dear NPNHT Supporters,

I would like to begin with a heartfelt thank you for making 2015 a year of major progress for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). With your help we enhanced our outreach and education efforts, and made advancements for heritage, stewardship, conservation preservation, and continued to share the NPNHT with a wide audience. Your support and dedication to the NPNHT is making a positive impact to preserve and protect this important National Historic Trail to make it more accessible for everyone whether they visit the Trail on the ground, visit special sites associated with the Trail, or virtually.

In 2015, together we empowered many volunteers and Challenge Cost Share partners. Some of those resulted in the reopening of more than 3 miles of trail on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and the 2016 "Exploring the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail" marketing program for the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regions which will build upon the awareness generated from the 2015 program. We added NPNHT historic sites and visitor centers on new Auto Tour brochures for Montana, Idaho, and Oregon and including the NPNHT on reprinted brochures for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. To see more on our great partners see details in side of this report.

We enabled thousands of people to virtually access the trail through the NPNHT website, our photo gallery, Flickr and YouTube, and virtual Trail experiences.

Now we are moving into a new year and have many exciting things planned for 2016. For instance, we are excited about the grand opening of a new traveling display we are working on with Ravalli County Museum. Additional details on this exhibit will be available in the Spring Progress Report and on our website so you will be able to learn more about how you can be involved.

And of course 2016 will be filled with vibrant and engaging programs and events. We urge you to take part in all you can. This year will mark the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the NPNHT which occurred by a Congressional Act on October 6, 1986. We invite you to join us and our partner in the celebration of the American Hiking Societies (AHS) 40th Anniversary, people of all ages are committing to Hike 40 miles, 40 trails, or 40 unique hikes between New Year's Day and AHS' birthday on October 13, 2016. Planning is also underway for events commemorating the 140th commemoration of the 1877 war and flight in 2017 and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2018.

The [AHS Hike 40 challenge](#) encourages everyone to get outside, to improve their health, and to experience new adventures on trails with friends and family in the New Year. Hike 40 is designed to replace the often ambiguous resolutions of 'getting fit' and 'losing weight' with a tangible and quantifiable goal for 2016," explains Gregory Miller, President of AHS.

Together we can ensure these sites and the stories they hold are not lost forever. Your continued support is needed. Please help us educate people and report any sightings of potential destruction. We are grateful for your help.

We look forward to all we can do together in 2016. Thank you and best wishes in the New Year!

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



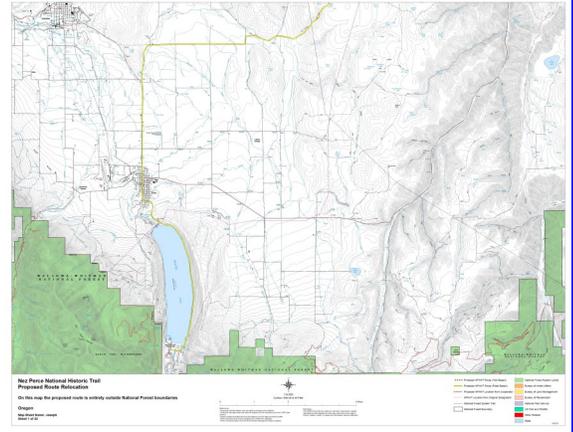
Sandra Broncheau-McFarland with Smokey Bear.

U.S. Forest Service Photo



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan Update

The revised Comprehensive Plan (CP) Chapters I and II are at the Washington Office of the U.S. Forest Service for review. The interdisciplinary team to complete the revised CP and accompanying environmental document is in the process of beginning work on the existing condition of the Trail. The team's assessment work requires the completion of the proposed Trail centerline alignment, designated as the Right-of-Way in the National Trails System Act of 1968. The proposed alignment will be completed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping by the end of February 2016 (*image right*). A review of this proposed alignment by all federal agencies, and state and local governments will begin next month and continue until completed this year. All landowners near the alignment proposal will be invited to participate in this review process.



U.S. Forest Service Image

Tread Lightly! Honors Champions & Partners at 25th Anniversary Celebration

The national nonprofit Tread Lightly! recognized a selection of individuals, corporations and organizations who have made significant contributions to helping the organization protect and enhance outdoor recreation access through education and stewardship during the last 25 years.

“Since its inception, Tread Lightly! has become a thriving nonprofit organization with materials, programs, and services unrivaled in scope, content, and purpose,” said Lori McCullough, Tread Lightly!’s executive director. “None of our success would have been possible without the advocacy, counsel, and financial support of many, many individuals and partners. We are thrilled to officially honor a few of them this year.”

The following awards were announced at Tread Lightly!’s 25th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC last fall:

Outstanding Agency Partner Awards

James Schwartz: The US Forest Service’s National Program Manager for Outdoor Ethics, James “Jamie” Schwartz, was recognized for his work as an advocate for Tread Lightly! for more than ten years. In his role as advisor to Tread Lightly! on behalf of the Forest Service, he was key in the creation of the Respected Access is Open Access campaign. Schwartz was also crucial to the development and expansion of unprecedented interagency partnerships that will help customize Tread Lightly!’s celebrated RIDE ON campaign in ten additional states in 2016.

Sean Harwood: Sean Harwood, Trails, Travel Management, Dispersed Recreation Program Lead for the US Forest Service, was honored for his role in expanding Tread Lightly!’s important outdoor ethics campaigns, including Respected Access is Open Access and RIDE ON. Harwood was especially highlighted as a critical factor in the funding and facilitation of ten statewide collaboratives.

Aaron Curtis: The Bureau of Land Management’s Regional Director of Recreation, Aaron Curtis, has personally advocated for Tread Lightly!’s increased involvement in each state in the West. He was also instrumental in the initiation of a soon-to-be-released campaign called Respect and Protect that will aim to address human behavior issues surrounding archeological and paleontological artifacts and sites.

Raymond Suazo: Raymond Suazo, State Director of the Bureau of Land Management’s Arizona State Office, was recognized for his role in developing one of Tread Lightly!’s most successful state partnerships to date. Under Suazo’s leadership, the Respected Access is Open Access in Arizona campaign was launched in 2012 to implement education, stakeholder engagement, and stewardship activities in the Phoenix area to address impacts associated with irresponsible recreational target shooting practices. He has been key in elevating the campaign to be a national model for public-private partnerships promoting responsible use of all types of recreation on public lands.

tread lightly!®
ON LAND AND WATER





Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department Honored for Salmon Recovery Work

In October of 2015 Harvard's Honoring Nations Program recognized top Tribal Governments at National Congress of American Indian's 72nd Annual Convention in San Diego, CA. The Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department was selected from 87 applicants by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development's Honoring Nations program. The prestigious Honoring Nations award identifies, celebrates, and shares exemplary programs in tribal governance. At the heart of Honoring Nations is the principle that tribes themselves hold the key to generating social, political, cultural, and economic prosperity, and that self-governance plays a crucial role in building and sustaining strong, healthy Indian nations.

As Honoring Nations Board Chairman, Regis Pecos (Cochiti Pueblo) says, "Honoring Nations celebrates the resilience of Indian Nations in response to the challenges they face in the maintenance of the Original Instructions as our Forefathers did, in their time, defining our inheritance of a way of life."

Administered by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (Harvard Project) at Harvard Kennedy School, Honoring Nations is a member of a worldwide family of "governmental best practices" awards programs that share a commitment to the core idea that government can be improved through the identification and dissemination of examples of effective solutions to common governmental concerns. At each stage of the selection process, applications are evaluated on the criteria of effectiveness, significance to sovereignty, cultural relevance, transferability, and sustainability. Since their inception in 1998, over one-quarter of all tribes in the U.S. have applied for an award; currently 124 tribal government programs have been recognized from more than 80 tribal nations.

Honoring Nation's Program Director Megan Minoka Hill (Oneida Nation WI) explains, "The Honoring Nations awardees are exemplary models of success and, by sharing their best practices, all governments – tribal and non-tribal alike – can benefit."

The Nez Perce Tribe's Fisheries Department was one of six tribal programs awarded for excellence and innovation in governance. They were recognized with high honors.

Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department, Nez Perce Tribe Salmon helped define what it means to be Nez Perce. Yet this precious resource has been under grave threat for generations—not only from dams and habitat destruction, but also a contentious set of legal battles around fishing rights.

The Nez Perce Fisheries Department has emerged as a key ally to the salmon. With 200 employees and a \$20 million annual budget, the Fisheries department provides world-class resource management over a three-state area. For more than three decades, the department has been working tirelessly to keep the salmon coming home. And it's paying off.

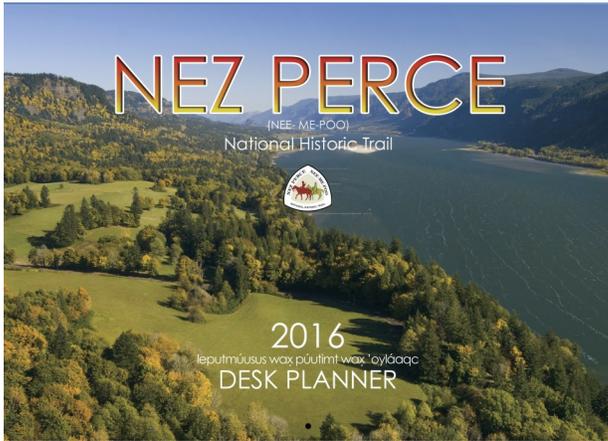
As one of many examples, a Chinook run that had declined to only 385 adult fish has been rebuilt to more than 60,000. When it comes to salmon, the Nez Perce are serious. And they've been seriously effective.



L-R: Joseph Y. Oatman & David B. Johnson



2016 Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Desk Planners Distributed



The annual desk planner for 2016 arrived in early December, 2015, and just as quickly the planners went back out the door to people across the region, and country, along with a few international requests.

This year's version of the popular planner depicts a number of waterways associated with the events of 1877. It also includes information about the importance of water in the Niimiipuu culture.

Thanks again to Jason Blake for his outstanding work with layout and design. Also thanks to those people who provided photos and to Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner; and others who provided information on the annual commemorations and pow wows.

Work on the 2017 Desk Planner will begin soon. We are always looking for new and creative ideas. If any of our partners have an idea they would like to propose for a Desk Planner theme please share it with the NPNHT staff.

We have a very limited number of planners left. If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or rpm.peterson@fs.fed.us.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

Exploring the Lewis & Clark Trail Partner Program Expands in 2016

The Exploring the Lewis & Clark Trail Partner program was funded as a Challenge Cost Share Project by the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) in 2015.

They have developed goals and plans for the 2016 trail marketing program after evaluating the survey responses from our partners regarding the 2015 Exploring the Lewis and Clark Trail program that included a partnership with the NPNHT.

Plans for the 2016 marketing programs for the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain trail regions that will include Nez Perce National Historic Trail travel information, recognition, and internet hot links.

2016 should be a big year for the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails. We plan to develop brochures and include NPNHT visitor centers and historic sites on the brochures for Montana, Idaho and Oregon. We will also include NPNHT visitor centers and historic sites on the reprinted multi-state brochure for South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana, and on the reprinted multistate brochures for Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. All Lewis and Clark Trail partner regions will also run summer 2016 advertising that will increase the number of visitors coming to the program's www.LewisAndClarkCountry.org website. We're also contacting select national travel-related advertisers who could also tie-into the program to generate even greater public awareness.

For 2016 our partner plans to utilize the remaining \$2,500 balance from the FY 2015 NPNHT Challenge Cost Share agreement with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Plans are underway with partner development in the Pacific Northwest and already have gained early interest from Oregon State Parks, Oregon Scenic Byways, Washington State Parks, and regional tourism agencies in Montana and Idaho. Design development should begin this winter.

We greatly appreciate the support and participation of the U.S. Forest Service and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. We look forward to continuing and growing this partnership in 2016!



Image Courtesy of J. Greg Smith Inc.

Jeff Smith, J. Greg Smith Inc.



BOOK REVIEWS:

Searching for the good fight in the Nez Perce War:

A review of William T. Vollmann's "The Dying Grass"

By Daniel Person/High Country News December 21, 2015

William T. Vollmann's striking new novel, *The Dying Grass*, chronicles the shameful events of the Nez Perce War of 1877, when the United States Army tried to prevent several bands of Native Americans from fleeing to Canada after miners and settlers encroached on tribal lands in the Northwest, in blatant violation of an earlier treaty. Much of the tale — and it's a long one, north of 1,200 pages — is told from the perspective of Gen. Oliver Otis Howard, who led the campaign.

Howard personifies a troublesome wrinkle in American history: the near-simultaneous fights to emancipate slaves and obliterate Native Americans. Unlike many of his fellow bluecoats, Howard was fiercely opposed to slavery; in fact, he founded Howard University, a black college, in Washington, D.C., in 1867.

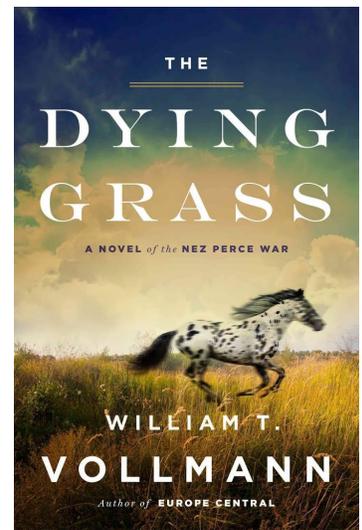
Vollmann uses Howard's memoirs to create internal dialogues that show him wrestling with the injustice of American Indian policy. Howard was acutely aware of the fact that settlers were willfully encroaching on treaty land in the Wallowa Valley. He sees his government as terrorizing the Nez Perce people: "He feels for them, of course. He disapproves not only of our national Indian policy, but also of Wallowa's heedless seizures."

Yet he still leads the campaign against the Nez Perce and several other Indian tribes. Why? Howard himself struggles with the question: He's a soldier; he needs the money; he's proud to serve his country. When all else fails, he reasons that "Washington has given instructions, and there must be an end." Howard is a tragic figure whose self-deception becomes painfully obvious as the long march carries on. In him, Vollmann finds a clear historical allegory for America at large — a nation keenly aware of its principles even as it fails to live up to them.

Vollmann is notorious for writing at too great a length, but something must be said for the book's word-to-word beauty. He has a tendency to fall into near-verse when describing a scene. Early in the novel, he flashes forward to his own visit to Chief Joseph's grave on the Colville Indian Reservation near Nespelem, Washington, where the surviving members of Joseph's band were eventually placed, years after their surrender. Standing in the cemetery, Vollman forms something like a High Plains haiku from a simple inscription on another gravestone:

My precious little girl Haylee Roxanne June 5 2004 Oct 6 2004 "— my heart is good; my heart is grass; graves in the gravel and golden grass."

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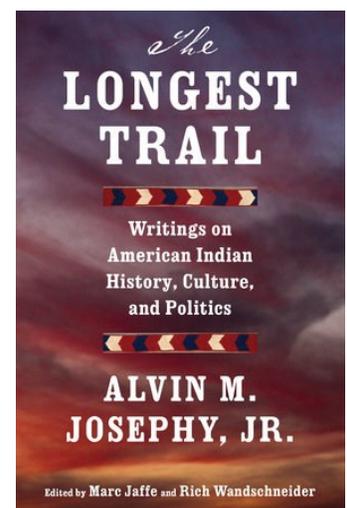
The Longest Trail

Alvin Josephy Jr.'s groundbreaking, popular books and essays advocated for a fair and true historical assessment of Native Americans, and set the course for modern Native American studies.

This collection, which includes magazine articles, speeches, a white paper, and introductions and chapters of books, gives a generous and reasoned view of five hundred years of Indian history in North America from first settlements in the East to the long trek of the Nez Perce Indians in the Northwest.

The essays deal with the origins of still unresolved troubles with treaties and territories to fishing and land rights, and who should own archeological finds, as well as the ideologies that underpin our Indian policy. Taken together the pieces give a revelatory introduction to American Indian history, a history that continues both to fascinate and inform.

[Information from Penguin Random House](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)



Upcoming Pubic Events Associated to the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

The month of February will offer people a chance to shake the cabin fever of winter and learn more about the Niimiipuu, their lives, and their encounters with European visitors to their traditional homeland.

On Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 11 a.m. MST, at Travelers Rest State Park in Lolo, MT, as part of the Park's annual program to celebrate the Salish tradition of sharing stories during the cold winter months. Josiah Pinkham, whose ancestors were involved in the 1877 war and flight, will present Nez Perce Creation Stories. There is a \$5 per person charge for the general public but is free if you are a member of Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association (TRPHA).



On Thursday, February 11, 2016, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT, will host as part of their Film Festival, "Coming To Light - Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indians." Edward Curtis was an American ethnologist and photographer of the American West and of Native American peoples. He was an authority on the history of the North American Indian and devoted his life to compiling Indian history. His research was done under the patronage of the late financier, J. Pierpont Morgan. "Coming to Light - Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indians" is a video journey of Edward S. Curtis and his 30 year effort to document through photographs the life of American Indians. Curtis met Joseph late in his life when the Chief came to Seattle in his continued efforts for the return of the Tribe's lost homeland in the Wallowa Valley. Curtis photographed Joseph on several occasions (*photo left*). Curtis and Joseph became friends and Curtis later said about Chief Joseph that he was "one of the greatest men who ever lived." The film is 84 minutes in length with showing at 4 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. MST.

The film is free to the public but people are encouraged to bring donations for the local food bank.

On Saturday, February 20, 2016, at 1 p.m. PST, at the Spalding Visitor Center of Nez Perce National Historical Park; the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will present Fire Arms of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Nez Perce Tribe in 1805-06.

Local members of the Hog Heaven Muzzleloaders will show and discuss the 12 firearms used in this area in 1805-6. There are guns the expedition carried and trade guns the Nez Perce had acquired before the arrival of Lewis and Clark. Among the guns to be shown and discussed are 6 period guns as well as fine reproductions.



UPCOMING Events:



January-March, 2016 — Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)

February 6-11, 2016 — [Hike the Hill](#): Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC

March 14-18, 2016 — Native American Awareness Week Lewiston, ID

April 23, 2016—Redheart Memorial, Fort Vancouver, WA

May 13-14, 2016—Eastern Oregon University Indian Arts Festival, Pow Wow and Friendship Feast, La Grande, OR

June 4, 2016—National Trails Day

June 6-10, 2016 —2016 National Historic Trails, Independence, MO

June 11, 2016—National Get Outdoors Day, fees waived at U.S. Forest Service sites that require a fee, (check with local units)



Memorial:

Bill G. Ewing: Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle, Bill G. Ewing, passed away suddenly Thursday morning, November 5, 2015. As per his wishes, cremation has taken place. Bill was born May 18, 1935, in Republic, MO., the second son of Regis "Curly" and Alma Ewing. Following the construction business, his parents relocated the family to the Northwest, and his love for the outdoors began.

Bill had been previously married and divorced, and he was blessed with four beautiful children whom he loved dearly. In 1969, Bill met the love of his life, Bonnie, in Orofino, and they married in 1974 in Clarkston. Between the two, they combined his children with her three to make a large and loving family that for decades went on numerous camping, fishing, and hunting trips together. These times were special and hold memories for us all. He was our moral compass and taught us how to enjoy life and appreciate family.

He spent his career following big construction jobs, including working at McNary, Dworshak, and Lower Granite dams, and then later was transferred to South America for the construction of the Consorcio Turimiquire Dam. This was an awesome experience for the family as they resided in Playa Colorada, Venezuela, for several years.

After his retirement, he became involved with several organizations, was a past member of the Nez Perce Mounted Sheriff's Posse, and affiliated with the Chief Joseph Foundation (CJF) through his wife, Bonnie. For the past 26 years he has voluntarily maintained the CJF herd on a daily basis and assisted with their youth riding program. He was also very proud of the breeding program of their own Appaloosa horses, and he sold a beautiful Appaloosa mare to actor Richard Gere. Numerous horses were sold to buyers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

His loving wife Bonnie survives him at the family home near Jacques Spur; as do sons Mike Ewing of Lewiston, Mitchell Ewing of Redmond, OR, Bob (Cheryl) Samuels of Lapwai, ID, and Melvin Samuels of Sanford, ME; daughters Marci (Reid) Littell of Lewiston, ID, and Dawn (Robert) Johnson of Lapwai; sister Linda Ewing-Wilks; 18 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; numerous nieces and nephews; and all those who lovingly called him "Papa Bill"; in addition to all of his friends and acquaintances at the Clearwater River Casino, where he loved to unwind and visit with each of you.



Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Winter 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.



From the Big Hole Pass Cam recently

Photo Courtesy of the Montana Department of Transportation





Fort Leavenworth and the Nez Perce

Fort Leavenworth and the city of Leavenworth played a major role in the Nez Perce history

By Matt Nowak (*photo left*)

In 1877, one year after Custer's defeat, the Army basically fought the last of the Indian Wars. It was against the Nez Perce of eastern Oregon and Idaho. Actually the war ranged over several states, including several days in the new Yellowstone National Park, and covered about 1,300 miles and ended at Snake Creek near the Bear Paw Mountains in northern Montana, about 40 miles south of the Canadian border.

The previous year, the Indians that had defeated Custer and killed 1 percent of the entire U.S. Army had fled across the same Medicine Line into Canada. Although they were fully aware of the predicament in which the Nez Perce were situated, they were informed by the Canadian authorities that while they were welcome to stay in Canada as refugees, they would not be welcomed back into Canada if they went to the rescue of the Nez Perce in Montana.

So in late 1877, Joseph and Yellow Wolf agreed to surrender to the U.S. troops in order to save the lives of the 400-plus Nez Perce women, children, elderly and the few remaining warriors who were trapped with no chance of escape into Canada. The agreement was that they would give up their weapons and horses and be allowed to return to the reservation in eastern Idaho. Unfortunately, the folks in Idaho and Oregon did not want them to return because they had plans for the land formerly occupied by the Nez Perce.

Instead, the Nez Perce were escorted to Bismarck by boat and by wagon where they eventually boarded the train to be delivered to Fort Leavenworth. If you stand on the corner of the road that crosses the railroad tracks into Sherman Army Airfield, you can look past the hangars and you can visually follow the Road to Rialto that led to the incarceration site.

This being a cavalry post, there were lots of horses, and soldiers liked to race their horses in their spare time. The so-called Victorian Era Horse Race Track was at least the second race track on the fort and was located at the present-day intersection of the Road to Rialto and the levee road, also named Chief Joseph Loop.

The Nez Perce were provided shelter within the confines of the race track and they were provisioned with food and water and security was provided by the Army, although I would hesitate to say that they were totally confined or imprisoned. In fact, with worldwide press coverage of the last of the Great Indian Wars or Nez Perce War, the fact that Chief Joseph was here drew a lot of curious people who wanted to see Joseph and the other real Indians.

The Fort decided to create a curfew to provide the Indians some peace because people were showing up at all hours to see them. Supposedly, the Nez Perce spent some of their time making things for the public to purchase. Since they arrived in the fall, I believe that they may also have spent plenty of time collecting native pecans to eat from the woodlands that were on the fort's floodplain. Those pecans and plenty of new ones are still there and I have picked hundreds of pounds of native pecans from them.

It did not take long for the fort to grow tired of housing 400 Indians and caring for them as it got to be pretty expensive and the commander complained to Congress that he would release them immediately if Congress did not provide reimbursement for his costs. The commander argued that he was not equipped to operate a prisoner of war camp and that he would set them free if they were not removed.

Just eight months after they arrived at the fort, they boarded the train in downtown Leavenworth and were transported to Oklahoma where they stayed for about seven years until they returned to Idaho.

You can learn a lot more about the historic Nez Perce and the present-day Nation by going online. I recommend that you also become a member of the Nez Perce Historic Trail Foundation.

Fort Leavenworth and the city of Leavenworth played a major role in the Nez Perce history and I suspect that you will want to learn a lot more about both the Nez Perce and the role that we played.

Matt Nowak is a retired natural resources specialist and lives in Lansing. Matt is currently the membership chairman for the [Nez Perce Trail Foundation](#)

Article reprinted with the permission of the [Leavenworth Times](#) where it first appeared in 2015.



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



Now that 2015 is in the review mirror the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) is hitting the ground running with planning efforts for 2016. The NPTF has made tremendous strides in the past year related to our re-organization.

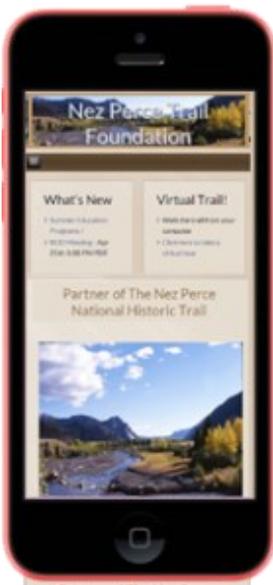
The NPTF is kicking off 2016 with several efforts.

In early February membership chairman Matt Nowak will be attending the American Hiking Societies and Partnership for the National Trails System Hike the Hill Advocacy week in Washington D.C.

The NPTF encourages professional connections through LinkedIn. If you would like to connect with and learn more about the NPTF, please connect with them at [Karen \(KL\) Heagen – NPTF](#).

Representatives for the NPTF will again be present at the 19th Annual Redheart Memorial at Ft. Vancouver, WA, on April 23, 2016.

Plans are already underway for this year's 2016 NPTF Summer Educational Tour, which will begin at Yellowstone National Park and travel to the Bears Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT. Tour dates are currently planned for July 30-August 7. Additional information will be posted soon on the NPTF website at: www.nezperctrail.net/summer-educational-trail-tour/



Prior to joining the tour NPTF Secretary Karen Heagen also plans to participate in events surrounding the Chief Joseph Trail Ride through Central Montana to the Bear Paw Battlefield in July.

The NPTF has now implemented its yearly membership renewal program, with all memberships due on January 1 of each year.

The NPTF website can now be viewed on your mobile device. Our new web design is mobile friendly. Now you can access our site as you travel the Trail. As always, go to NezPerceTrail.net, and we will be instantly formatted on your phone or mobile device.

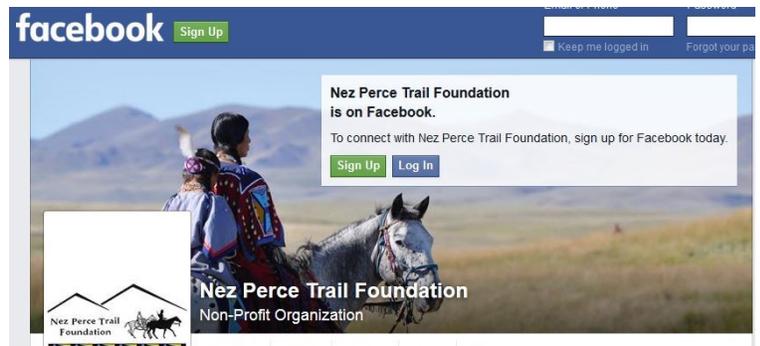
For additional information about the NPTF please visit our website at: <http://nezperctrail.net/>

Remember to “Like” the [NPTF on Facebook](#).

Karen Heagen Secretary, NPTF



Kat Wapato learning about her ancestors and the events that took place at Big Hole, while on the 2015 NPTF Summer Trail Tour.





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

Brett Spaulding was hired from Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick, MD. He fills the supervisory park ranger position vacated by Marc Blackburn last April. Brett will be responsible for all facets of the interpretation and visitor services program at Nez Perce National Historical Park. He will report to duty the first week of February 2016, and will be accompanied by wife Mary and daughter.

In early December Nez Perce National Historical Park consulted with representatives of three tribal governments on three initial draft exhibit concepts for the Park's Spaulding visitor center. The concepts were developed based on a previous tribal consultation at the Park by its contractor, Design Minds of Fairfax, VA. Consultants included representatives from among the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Colville Confederated Tribes. Design Minds will return with a final draft concept at a later date.



Current exhibit at Nez Perce National Historic Park in Spaulding, ID.

Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

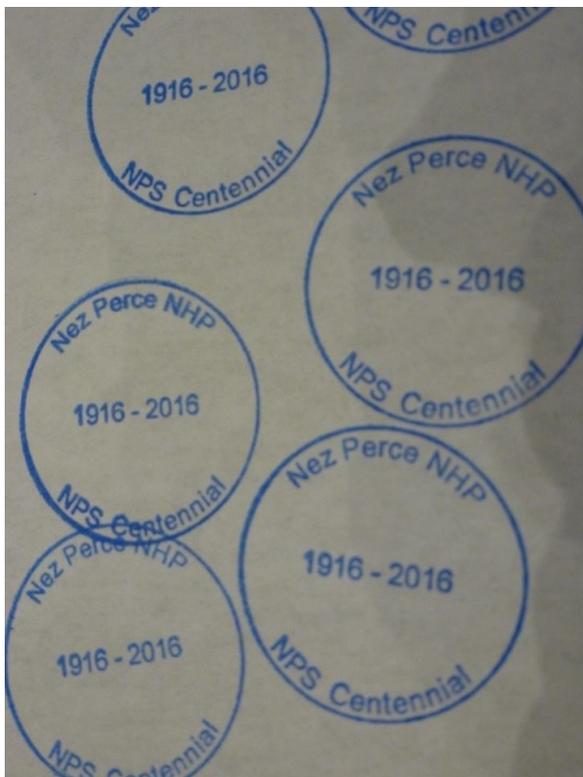


Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

The Official Park Centennial Stamp is now available, get yours today!

The Park's 50th anniversary *Nuunimnix, Our Very Own* art show is closing this week at the Center for Arts and History in downtown Lewiston, ID. Park staff will disassemble the exhibits and bring them to the Park museum at Spaulding pending their transport to the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture at Spokane, WA in February. The MAC will host *Nuunimnix* into June. An affiliated exhibit is being prepared by the Park to showcase nearby northwest national parks in conjunction with the 2016 National Park Service centennial.

New vault toilets were installed in November at the Heart of the Monster site in Kamiah, ID. These replaced deteriorating plumbed toilets which necessitated annual winter closure. In addition, basalt rock entrance sign features have been installed at the Park's Canoe Camp, Heart of the Monster, and White Bird Battlefield sites. New signs await fitting into steel frames affixed to the basalt. These features are similar to that at the main public entrance to Spaulding.

Scott Eckberg
Idaho Unit Manager
Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

The New Year brings new changes and a lot of planning to both Big Hole National Battlefield and Bear Paw Battlefield.

Both battlefields are currently in the process of filling their Lead Ranger positions. Sarah Gone, who served as both a critical needs and a Student Conservation Interpretation Intern at Bear Paw, accepted a job with the Fort Belknap Tribal Court. Gone was the Parks only employee at Bear Paw for the fall and winter, she represented the Park well and will be sorely missed. Jim Magera will be filling in at Bear Paw until the Lead Ranger position can be filled. At Big Hole, the Lead Ranger Mandi Wick was offered and accepted the Montana Unit Manager/Superintendent position. Both announcements for the Lead Ranger positions will be flown shortly, as well as seasonal positions at both Parks. We appreciate everyone's help in getting the word out.



Winter day at Big Hole National Battlefield

Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Do you have a special story or skill that you would like to share? The Big Hole National Battlefield is looking for cultural demonstrators to share their stories and skills with the public. We are seeking interested participants for Coyote Camp in May and the Summer Speaker Series. Housing, mileage, per diem, and honorarium will be provided. If you are interested in being a part of either (or both) of these exciting programs please contact the park



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

for an application at (406) 689-3155 or e-mail:

BIHO_Visitor_Information@nps.gov. All applications must be received by March 1, 2016.

While visitation may be slow, we are busy planning for the upcoming season, so be sure to mark your calendars for the following events:

- Coyote Camp 2016, May 23-May 27, 2016
- Summer Speaker Series at Big Hole, weekends from June 25-August 14, 2016 (speakers TBA)
- Big Hole Commemoration August 6, 2016
- Bear Paw Commemoration October 1, 2016

2016 is also the Centennial of the National Park Service; stay tuned for details on what we will be doing to help celebrate.



If you are looking for something to do this winter, stop by and see us. If you are in Chinook, the Blaine County Museum is a definite highlight. Their winter hours are 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. MST. If you are near the Big Hole, our winter hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST. Remember, Big Hole also lends out snowshoes, so the whole family can spend the day and enjoy the trails (*photo above*).

For more information, contact Big Hole National Battlefield at (406) 689-3155 or check out our website at www.nps.gov/biho.

qe'ciyéw'yew (thank you),

Mandi Wick Montana Unit Manager/Superintendent Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the Bureau of Land Management: Cody, WY, Field Office

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody Field Office partnered with the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA) on a research project this past summer to find evidence of U.S. Army bivouacs associated with the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic

Trail (NPNHT) near Clark, WY.

The NPNHT follows the path of the Nez Perce as they tried to escape the pursuing U.S. Army during the 1877 war and flight. The 1,170 mile long route begins at Wallowa Lake, OR, and ends at the Bear Paw Battleground in Montana. One segment of the Trail follows the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River out of Wyoming and into Montana.

Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA) Senior Archaeologist Dan Eakin pored over archival literature and first person accounts of the pursuit in an effort to locate evidence for camps left behind by two army units, one under the command of General O.O. Howard and the other under the command of Colonel Samuel Sturgis.

“The archival materials make searching worthwhile because Army officers wrote about where they camped,” Eakin said. “More than a thousand men from two different departments made camp in approximately the same location, somewhere in this area – that’s what we’re looking for.”

In the field this summer, archaeologists and volunteers lugging metal detectors walked transects in these locations, hoping to encounter traces left behind by the military.

Searchers from OWSA, the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, Celilo Miles from the Nez Perce Tribe, and several volunteers found worn down horseshoe halves, cartridge cases, a saddle ring, and a square nail. Although none of the artifacts can be definitively associated with the 1877 event, expectations for future research locations have been refined.

Similar searches have been conducted, beginning in 2008, in Yellowstone National Park and neighboring Shoshone National Forest. These searches yielded more artifacts than this summer’s efforts, as the route of the Nez Perce and the U.S. Army would have been restricted by the hydrology and geography of the landscape.

“Out in the sagebrush steppe, however, it’s almost impossible to guess which way they would have gone,” said Eakin. The prospect for future discoveries and the positive response from project partners has BLM Archaeologist Kierson Crume hoping to continue the inventory effort in future field seasons.

“Findings from projects such as this will augment our interpretive efforts and the way we manage the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail corridor,” said Crume.

The project was made possible by a cooperative agreement administered by the Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit between the U.S. Department of the Interior–BLM and the University of Wyoming. Other participants include the Absaroka Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, the Shoshone National Forest, the Park County Historic Preservation Commission, and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center.

Visit www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/ or <http://nezpercetrail.net/> to learn more about the Nez Perce NHT and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

For more information, contact Sarah Beckwith, 307-347-5207 sbeckwith@blm.gov or Kierson Crume 578-5900 or kcrume@blm.gov at the Cody Field Office, 1002 Blackburn Street, Cody, WY 82414



Bureau of Land Management Photo

Archaeologists search for traces of the Army during the pursuit of the Nez Perce.

Archaeologists and others search for traces left behind by the military during the pursuit of the Nez Perce in 1877. From left to right are Delissa Minnick, Kierson Crume, Bob Evans and Krystal Hazen with the BLM; Mark Voorhees with the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA); Kyle Wright with the U.S. Forest Service; and Dan Eakin with OWSA.



New Faces Along the Trail:

Mandi Wick Selected as Montana Unit Manager and Superintendent at Big Hole Battlefield

The National Park Service has selected Mandi Wick as the Montana Unit Manager/ Superintendent of Big Hole National Battlefield located near Wisdom, MT. The Montana Unit Manager oversees the Bear Paw Battlefield, Canyon Creek, Camas Meadows and the Big Hole National Battlefield units of Nez Perce National Historical Park. Wick replaces Steve Black, who left earlier this year to become superintendent of Little River Canyon National Preserve in Alabama. She began her new role on December 13, 2015.



For the last six years, Wick has been the Chief Ranger of Big Hole National Battlefield, and has served as the Acting Superintendent many times. During her tenure at Big Hole she has developed strong positive relationships with the Park's Nez Perce tribal partners.

“Mandi is well suited for this position,” said Acting Regional Director Martha Lee. “She’s very familiar with the resources at Big Hole and the other Montana sites, plus she has a substantial amount of experience managing these areas and working with our partners there.”

Wick began her National Park Service career at Big Hole National Battlefield, first as a Visitor Use Assistant and later as a Park Guide under the Student Career Experience Program. She moved into her current position after completing a degree in sociology. During her time with the Park she has used her knowledge and enthusiasm to create new interpretive programs with an emphasis in reaching out to students and young people.

Wick was a leader on the team that developed new exhibits at the Big Hole Battlefield Visitor Center, and has been instrumental in leading the changes to the interpretive programs that are the result of that project. She is currently leading the creation of a new park visitor brochure and is on the design team for new exhibits at the Spalding visitor center in Idaho. Wick continues to cultivate park tribal partnerships for model youth engagement programs.

“Having grown up near Big Hole Battlefield, it has always held a special place in my heart,” said Wick. “To have been given this opportunity is both humbling and a great honor. I look forward to continuing to work with the park staff, tribal partners, shareholders, and the local community. With the centennial on the horizon, this is an exciting time to be a part of the National Park Service.”

Wick enjoys horse-back riding, hiking, skiing and camping with her husband Paul, and three daughters, Nadia (15), Athena (10) and Zophia (2).



Scott Snelson New Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge



U.S. Forest Service Photo

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest recently selected Scott Snelson as its new Deputy Forest Supervisor. Snelson comes to SW Montana from Minnesota where he had been serving as the District Ranger for the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest in the Arrowhead Region of Northern Minnesota.

Prior to working on the Superior National Forest, Snelson worked on the White River NF of Colorado where he served as District Ranger for the Aspen and Sopris Districts. He also served as the Forest Staff Officer for Fish, Wildlife, Watershed, and Soils and Subsistence on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. In Montana, Snelson worked for the State of Montana as a fisheries biologist, restoration ecologist, and watershed coordinator before returning to

the U.S. Forest Service as the Forest Aquatic Ecologist for the Superior National Forest in Northern Minnesota.

“My family and I are wildly excited to be returning to Montana, a place where we have deep roots,” said Snelson. “I am very much honored and looking forward to joining and working with the communities of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest as we take on the challenges of stewarding the amazing public trust resources.”

Snelson grew up in Central Minnesota where he loved to camp, hike, hunt, and fish. Snelson began his land management career as a farm hand on his Uncle’s dairy farm in Northern Wisconsin where he spent his summers helping his uncle scratch out a living from the rocky loam landscape. Snelson spent 16 years in Montana where he earned both his bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Montana State University in Biological Sciences and worked as a U.S. Forest Service trail crew foreman in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and a fire fighter.

Snelson and his wife Heidi have two adult daughters. His oldest daughter is a Forestry graduate from the University of Montana in Missoula, and the youngest is a massage therapist and lives in Duluth, MN. Snelson began work at the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest on July 27, 2015.

R. Mike LaFrentz Named Shoshone National Forest Recreation Staff Officer

R. Mike LaFrentz recently accepted the position of Recreation Staff Officer for the Shoshone National Forest based out of Cody, WY.

LaFrentz was born in Hudson, IA.

He started his federal career with the U.S. Forest Service at the age of 17 in the Medicine Bow National Forest where he worked for several years as a seasonal employee. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University and a Master’s degree in Criminology from California State University of Fresno. While working through college, he served as a Park Ranger, Senior Park Ranger, and Project Manager at several U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects. In 2006 he accepted the Marias-Milk Rivers Division Manager with the Bureau of Reclamation in northern Montana and worked there for almost 7 years before accepting the position of Recreation Staff for the Shoshone National Forest.



U.S. Forest Service Photo

In his position LaFrentz will manage the Recreation, Wilderness, Lands, Engineering, and Heritage programs on the Forest as well as serving on the Forest Leadership Team and Budget Committee.

“My door is always open and I encourage visits any time to discuss these programs,” said LaFrentz.

LaFrentz enjoys camping, fishing, hunting, and backpacking with his family which includes his wife, Chandra and two beautiful daughters, Abigail, 6, and Maddie, 4. His hobbies include tinkering with anything mechanical and fine wood working.



How to Contact Us:

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Winter Along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail



Dog sled races at Lost Trail Pass
Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Lolo Pass Winter Day
U.S. Forest Service photo



Throw back photo: Spalding bridge over the Clearwater River in 1967. Before the Dworshak Dam went in, the river froze annually the breaking up of the ice could be heard as far away as Lapwai, ID.
National Park Service photo



Winter at Yellowstone NP Headquarters at Mammoth Hot Springs.
National Park Service photo



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