



## Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Fact Sheet

- Congress passed the National Trails System Act (NTSA) in 1968, establishing a framework for a nationwide system of recreational, scenic, and historic trails.
- The NPNHT was added to this system by Congress as a National Historic Trail in 1986.
- The NPNHT stretches from the vicinity of Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana. The 1170 mile NPNHT includes a designated corridor which encompasses 4161 miles of roads, trails and routes.
- The NPNHT starts at Wallowa Lake, Oregon, then heads northeast into the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area crossing the Snake River at Dug Bar into Idaho. The Trail cuts across north-central Idaho, entering Montana near Lolo Pass. It then travels through the Bitterroot Valley. The Trail then travels southeast through the Big Hole and Horse Prairie valleys in southwestern Montana. It re-enters Idaho at Bannock Pass and travels east back into Montana at Targhee Pass near Island Park, Idaho. It bisects Yellowstone National Park, and follows the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone out of Wyoming into Montana. The Trail heads north from Laurel, Montana, through the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument to the Bear Paw Mountains, ending 40 miles south of the Canadian border near Chinook, Montana.
- The NPNHT follows the 1877 Flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce from their homelands. Their desperate and circuitous journey, while being pursued by U.S. Army lead by General O.O. Howard, Colonels John Gibbon, Samuel D. Sturgis, and Nelson A. Miles, is one of the most fascinating and sorrowful events in Western U.S. history. This route was used in its entirety only once; however, component trails and roads that make up the Trail corridor bore generations of use prior to and after the 1877 war and flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce.
- The NPNHT crosses a variety of federal, state, tribal, local and private lands.
- The NPNHT manages 67 interpretive sites and works with partners on an additional 90 sites Trail wide.
- The NPNHT has several associated certified historical sites located in Kansas, Oklahoma, Washington, and Canada.
- Federal land owners include the U.S. Forest Service (Trail Administrator), National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army, and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.
- The NPNHT makes its way through five western states (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming).
- The NPNHT passes through 11 National Forests in four regions of the U.S. Forest Service: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)
- NPNHT staff work closely with four National Parks in three regions of the National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)
- NPNHT staff work closely with three District Offices, 11 Field Offices and four State Offices of the Bureau of Land Management: [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)
- NPNHT staff work closely with four National Wildlife Hatcheries and Refuges in two regions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)
- NPNHT staff also works with Parks Canada in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service International Programs: [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)
- NPNHT staff work closely with tribal members from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and their respective Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO). The staff has begun discussions with upwards of 28 additional tribes with connections to the NPNHT.
- NPNHT staff work closely with State agencies from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming including their respective Fish, Game and Parks Departments, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) and State Tourism offices.
- NPNHT staff also works closely with numerous, individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) including the Nez Perce Trail Foundation: <http://nezpercetrail.net/>
- The NPNHT website ([www.fs.usda.gov/npnht](http://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht)) provides current information about the Trail. It receives thousands of hits each year and reaches an international audience interested in the stories of the Trail and its associated peoples.

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