



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

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT)

During the past 26 years, the U.S. Forest Service has responded to the provisions of the National Trails System Act (NTSA). NPNHT staff follows the direction in the [1990 Comprehensive Plan](#) (CP) to administer the 1170 mile Trail. The NPNHT includes a designated corridor encompassing 4161 miles of roads, trails and routes. Congress authorized the NPNHT in 1986 to commemorate the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce. The Trail, including associated sites and auto tours, crosses a mix of local, county, state, federal, and tribal jurisdictions across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

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

Why?

The 1990 CP was developed to have a fifteen to twenty year life span much like a forest plan. Within the past decade, two independent interagency reviews of the 1990 NPNHT CP determined the Plan needs to be revised and updated. The National Trails System Act of 1968 ([NTSA](#)) has been amended several times since the 1990 NPNHT CP was completed. These items include the following that must be incorporated during the revision process:

- Specify management objectives and practices;
- Identify significant resources;
- Incorporate examples of cooperative agreements;
- Identify carrying capacity;
- Include an acquisition plan;
- Develop general and site-specific development plans, with anticipated costs;
- Consult with tribal governments;
- Involve the public.

Why now?

The revision is needed because the NPNHT CP is 26 years old. The EIS will be used to complete the revision. Current issues did not exist in 1990. Public interest in the NPNHT has recently increased. The revised plan will focus on increasing consistent cooperation with organizations and individuals. The agency EIS will revise the CP to address recent changes to the NPNHT corridor such as energy development, cell towers, urban interface, and new recreation activities not originally addressed in the current CP. The 1990 NPNHT CP predated the 1992 Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP) Additions Act. Congress expanded the NPNHP to encompass key historical sites along the Trail. A revised CP benefits all federal agencies by providing consistent management direction. Several tribal governments have expressed interest in participating in the revision process that were not part of the original CP.

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A revised CP will similarly complement all federal agency managed Trail segments by clarifying the NPNHT's relationship to their respective management plans. For example, the Federal Highway Administration's America's Byways program, created in 1990, features state and federally designated scenic motorways. These byways incorporate or parallel NPNHT auto tour routes, providing an additional avenue for Trail cooperation, promotion, an interpretation among state and local byway coordinators. Population growth, economic transition, ecotourism, and technology shifts pose added changes to Trail resources to be considered. The revision will address sensitive NPNHT sites and resources including the increasing need for heritage preservation planning across the NPNHT.

The Trail is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The Regional Forester of the Northern Region is the responsible administrative official. The U.S. Forest Service cooperates with the following entities:

- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- U.S. Army Combined Arms Command Center
- Affected Tribes
- State and Local Governments

Who is Invited to Participate?

All interested stakeholders and communities, for whom the Trail represents particular values related to heritage and remembrance are invited to participate. To date, more than 900 public comments have been received through public meetings, e-mail and written input.

How can You Participate?

You can comment online or by mail to the revision process. There will be additional public meetings along the Trail when the revision process is started. Additional Public Scoping Meetings will be held later during the EIS development phase. You may contact or send in your input to the CP Team Lead:

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For additional information please visit the NPNHT CP Revision website at:
www.fs.usda.gov/npnht

This website provides more information about the NPNHT, the process for the revision of the CP, Trail specific events and happenings, and additional opportunities to provide written comments if people are unable to attend one of the public meetings.

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