



Northern Region Briefing Paper

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail
High Potential Historic Sites
June 24, 2016



STATUS REPORT: The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) has 79 High Potential Historic Sites identified in the 1990 Comprehensive Plan (CP) however the work to verify the majority of these sites has never been completed.

BACKGROUND: The National Trails System Act (NTSA) required national historic trail to identify High Potential Historic Sites: *NTSA Sec 12. (1) The term high potential historic sites means those historic sites related to the route, or sites in close proximity thereto, which provide opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail during the period of its major use. Criteria for consideration as high potential sites include historic significance, presence of visible historic remnants, scenic quality, and relative freedom from intrusion.*

The agencies have never completed the research work to verify the majority of the sites has being associated with the 1877 War and Flight of the Nez Perce. The work to date has been primarily focused on the battlefield sites. There is need to complete the remainder of the research and analysis work for the 79 Sites. Agencies, local governments and public have brought additional sites to the NPNHT Administrator for potential addition to the revised CP. The list of the 79 High Potential Historic Sites is attached.

TALKING POINTS:

The Objective for the CP revision will be: Within ten years of the approval of the revised CP, protection plans, to protect historical elements of the 79 identified high potential historic sites along the NPNHT will be completed within ten years of approval of the revised CP. Additional high potential historic sites will be identified and documented with a protection plan in five-year increments after approval of the revised CP.

- All federal agencies will prioritize with Trail Administrator their units' current Sites in an action plan to complete research and documentation of sites within one year. All new Sites will be prioritized by the Trail Administrator and all affected partners on a yearly basis. The State Historic Preservation Offices will be included in all these discussions.
- High Potential Historic Sites shall use the Site Certification practices developed by the Trail Administrator based on advise and agreements with states, tribes, and federal agencies.
- Interpretive and educational facilities and materials should be developed based on these High Potential Historic Sites.

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LINKS and OTHER RELATED MATERIALS: www.fs.usda.gov/npnht

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