



Northern Region Briefing Paper

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



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

BACKGROUND: The National Trails System Act (NTSA) required national historic trail to identify High Potential Route Segments: *16 USC 1251 [2]* The term "high potential route segments" means those segments of a trail which would afford high quality recreation experience in a portion of the route having greater than average scenic values or affording an opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original users of a historic route.

The seven segments are: Imnaha River, White Bird Battlefield, Lolo Trail, Gibbons Pass, Overland Trail, Yellowstone, and Missouri River Breaks. White Bird Battlefield is now a unit of the Nez Perce National Historical Park and the Park staff is undertaking the required studies. The Lolo Trail is part of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. A large section of this segment study work is completed for the Landmark. The Lolo Trail outside the landmark is not done and neither are the other segments.

TALKING POINTS:

- Upon completion of the revised CP, Protection plans will be completed for the existing seven high potential route segments.
- Within five years of the revised CP, protection plans will be completed for the following new high potential route segments that have been located through archaeological surveys or historical studies:
 - ◇ Areas on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest south of Big Hole, Montana
 - ◇ The Wyoming and Montana border along and near the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone
 - ◇ The area around Fort Fizzle, Montana
 - ◇ Lieutenant Bacon route from Snowline, Montana to Henry's Lake, Idaho
 - ◇ Nez Perce Warriors route from Ryegate, Montana across Big Snowy Mountains to Lewistown, Montana
 - ◇ Nez Perce Warriors route from Laurel, Montana to Huntley Project, Montana
 - ◇ Route from Yellowstone National Park to Clarks Fork, Wyoming
- Interpretive and educational facilities and materials should be developed based on High Potential Route Segments.
- All agencies should utilize interpretive and educational facilities and materials for high potential route segments to engage youth in activities relating to the NPNHT.

CONTACT: Sanda Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, Nez Perce NHT, (208) 476-8334; Julie Molzahn, CP Team Lead, Nez Perce NHT, (406) 826-4352; Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, Nez Perce NHT, (406) 329-3540.

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

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