

Draft Nez Perce National Historic Trail Objectives and Practices

Definitions:

An **objective** is a concise, measureable and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions.

A **practice** can be a constraint on project or activity that are established to help achieve or maintain a desired condition or conditions to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Route Segments -National Trail System Act SEC. 12. [16USC1251] As used in this Act:

- (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.
- 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.

Objectives and Practices:

Corridor Management

Objective

Within five years of the revised CP, the identified corridor for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail will be marked on the ground in accordance with the standard processes adopted by administrators of all National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT).

Practices

1. The NPNHT corridor width shall be designated for one-half mile either side of centerline to protect resources directly associated with the NPNHT.
2. All agencies should mark associated facilities, access points and interpretive sites associated with segments of the NPNHT under their jurisdiction.

Comments :

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Incorporating Associated Connecting and Side Trails

Objectives

Upon approval of the revised CP, the following associated connecting and side trails will be incorporated into the NPNHT in order to tell the broader story of the events surrounding 1877: seven non-federal connecting and side trails identified in the 1990 CP; connecting trails to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; and side trails to Minam, Oregon, and the Canadian border north of Malta, Montana. The associated connecting and side trails are:

- a. Southern Nez Perce Trail
- b. Lolo Trail
- c. Overland Trail
- d. Bannock Trail
- e. Bozeman Trail
- f. Carrol Trail
- g. Cow Creek Freight Road
- h. Extension, through a side trail, of NPNHT from Joseph, Oregon to Minam, Oregon
- i. Extension, through a side trail, of NPNHT from Bear Paw Battlefield into Canada north of Malta, Montana as designated by Parks Canada.
- j. Extension of the NPNHT to historical sites associated with the 1877 War and Flight within the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada, as designated by Parks Canada.
- k. All connecting trails between Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail into NPNHT.
- l. All connecting trails between the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail into NPNHT.

Practices

1. NPNHT staff, appropriate federal agencies, state and local governments, and Shoshone Bannock Tribes shall develop a cooperative agreement for the Shoshone Bannock Tribe to manage the Bannock Trail including a potential request to Congress for a feasibility study for designation as a National Historic Trail.
2. NPNHT staff, Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forests, Bitterroot National Forests, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Chief Joseph Band of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and appropriate state and local governments shall develop a cooperative agreement for Tribal management of the Southern Nez Perce Trail.
3. NPNHT staff and U.S. Forest Service Washington Office International Program Staff and Recreation, Heritage, Volunteer Staff shall develop agreements with Parks Canada for joint management of the NPNHT near and along the U.S.-Canadian border, including development of joint facilities at the border crossing. All affected tribes, including the Nez Perce of Alberta, should be included in these discussions. Parks Canada has completed the NPNHT to Pinto Butte, Woods Mountain and Fort Walsh, Canada. Upon execution of these agreements, the NPNHT shall be extended into Canada.

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4. NPNHT Staff will work with appropriate federal agencies and state, tribal and local governments to provide for development and maintenance of the remainder of the associated connecting and side trails.

Comments:

High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Route Segments

Objectives

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.

Upon completion of the revised CP, Protection plans will be completed for the existing seven high potential route segments. These segments are: Imnaha River, White Bird Battlefield, Lolo Trail, Gibbons Pass, Overland Trail, and Yellowstone National Park. 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:

- a. Areas on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest south of Big Hole, Montana
- b. The Wyoming Montana Border along and near the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone
- c. The area around Fort Fizzle, Montana
- d. Lieutenant Bacon route from Snowline, Montana to Henry's Lake, Idaho
- e. Nez Perce Warriors route from Ryegate, Montana across Big Snowy Mountains to Lewistown, Montana
- f. Nez Perce Warriors route from Laurel, Montana to Huntley Project, Montana
- g. Route from Yellowstone National Park to Clarks Fork, Wyoming

After approval of the revised CP, all federal agencies will submit to the NPNHT administrator by early summer of each year a list prioritizing high potential historic sites and high potential route segments under their jurisdiction for completion of a protection plan.

Practices

1. All protection plan items in the 1990 CP for high potential historic sites and segments will be completed.
2. High Potential Historic Sites shall be "Site Certified" in accordance with the procedures developed by the NPNHT Administrator.
3. Interpretive and educational facilities and materials should be developed based on High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Route Segments.

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4. All agencies should utilize interpretive and educational facilities and materials for High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Route Segments to engage youth in activities relating to the NPNHT.

Comments:

Heritage Cultural Resource Management

Objectives

Within one year of completion of the CP and historical preservation plan, the federal agencies will submit a report to the NPNHT administrator describing how and when their historic property plans will be completed. Within ten years of approval of the revised CP, all federal agencies will complete tiered historic property plans for individual NPNHT segments and associated cultural sites under their jurisdiction.

Practices

1. Certification of all NPNHT segments and cultural sites shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures described in the revised CP.
2. All agencies shall engage with affected tribes and communities to identify and protect areas of local ethnographic and historical interest within the NPNHT corridor.
3. All agencies shall collaborate with, tribes, communities and preservation partners to identify cultural landscapes, NPNHT segments and cultural resources suitable for education, interpretation, and public use.
4. All federal agencies should encourage uses on federal lands they manage adjacent to the NPNHT that complement that protection, education and interpretation of historic resources.
5. All agencies should encourage research to enhance knowledge; understanding and appreciation of the NPNHT related resources and their historical significance.
6. The agencies should conduct public outreach and collaborate with affected tribes and cooperators to promote protection of heritage and cultural resources associated with the NPNHT.

Comments :

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Tribal Rights and Treaty Resources

Objective

Within five years of approval of the revised CP, members of the Nez Perce Tribe and descendants of the 1877 War and Flight (some are members of other tribes) will be allowed on a regular basis to retrace and reenact the events of the 1877 War and Flight, during the time of year those events occurred, on NPNHT segments under the jurisdiction of the federal agencies.

Practices

1. Cooperating and other agreements between federal agencies and affected tribes shall be consistent and take into account traditional and cultural uses within the corridor and adjacent areas significant to tribes.
2. Tribal members retracing and reenacting the 1877 War and Flight should be allowed to have a large number of horses and supporting staff.
3. Agencies should allow military descendants or reenactors to retrace and reenact the 1877 War and Flight in conjunction with tribal events.

Comments :

NPNHT Visitor Use Capacity

Objectives

Upon approval of the revised CP, the agencies will identify a visitor capacity (carrying capacity under NTSA) for segments of the NPNHT under their jurisdiction to provide a baseline for effective monitoring and management. Visitor capacity will be monitored along the NPNHT immediately upon approval of the revised CP. The federal agencies will monitor visitor capacity and will submit a report on impacts associated with visitor capacity to the NPNHT administrator by December 1 of each year.

Practices

1. To the extent feasible, visitor use capacity shall be managed to preserve the NPNHT as it was during the 1877 War and Flight.
2. Visitor capacity shall be identified for the eight Trail segments established by the auto tour management boundaries.

Comments :

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NPNHT Auto Tour Route Management

Objectives

Within three years of the revised CP, all federal agencies will complete signage of all auto tour routes on NPNHT segments under their jurisdiction. Each federal agency will annually review auto tour markers along NPNHT segments under its jurisdiction. All federal agencies will report annually to the NPNHT administrator on auto tour route management activities including any request for additional route markers or funding.

Within eight years of the revised CP, all agencies will complete signage of all auto tour routes on county roads in segments of the NPNHT under their jurisdiction. Within ten years of the approval of the revised CP, all agencies will have signed agreements in place with tribes, local partners and communities for joint management of auto tour facilities.

Practices

1. NPNHT staff shall complete an agreement for all auto tours along the NPNHT with the appropriate state department of transportation.
2. All agencies shall complete agreements with county road authorities for auto tour routes on county roads in segments of the NPNHT under their jurisdiction.
3. In places where the NPNHT tread crosses the auto tour routes, signs shall be posted marking the direction of the historical NPNHT tread.
4. The Interpretive Plan for the NPNHT shall be incorporated into agencies' interpretive and educational plans and general planning efforts.
5. All federal agencies should work with affected tribes, partners and communities to develop interpretive and educational facilities along auto tour routes on the NPNHT. Where possible, these facilities should be jointly managed.

Comments :

Allowable Public Uses in the NPNHT Corridor

Objectives

Within five years of approval of the revised CP, the NPNHT administrator will work with the agencies to develop additional rugged, backcountry opportunities on auto tour routes along the NPNHT for

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mechanized and motorized uses. Within two years of approval of the revised CP, the agencies will resolve travel management conflicts along auto tour routes on NPNHT segments under their jurisdiction.

Practices

1. Upon approval of the revised CP, federal agencies shall limit use of the NPNHT trail segments to hiking and equestrian use except during a natural disaster when protection of life or property requires limited motorized use of the trail tread.
2. The NPNHT Administrator should collaborate with state and local governments to limit trail tread use on their lands under their jurisdiction for hiking and equestrian use.
3. Auto Tour routes should allow for all travel use types consistent with agencies applicable travel management decisions for those segments.

Comments:

Scenery Management

Objective

Within five years of the revised CP, the NPNHT Trail Administrator, in consultation with other federal agencies, will identify priorities for enhancing vistas from the Trail within five years.

Practices

1. The foreground of the Trail shall meet the Scenic Integrity Objective of High.
2. All agencies should utilize the latest National Park Service guidance to protect the cultural landscape of the corridor.

Comments :

Wildlife Resource Management

Objective

Relocation of the NPNHT that is needed to protect critical habitat will be identified and completed within 20 years of approval of the revised CP.

Practices

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1. Historically significant sections of NPNHT shall not be relocated. Public trail tread shall be developed to parallel these sections to facilitate public travel on the NPNHT when needed to protect important wildlife or wildlife habitat.
2. All agencies should consider seasonal closures or restrictions of segments of the NPNHT under their jurisdiction when needed to protect Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species habitat. Temporary use for traditional and cultural purposes should be considered during these closures.
3. All agencies should work with NPNHT staff to create clear, concise and consistent educational and informational materials about closures.

Comments : _____

Botanical Resources

Objectives

Within ten years of approval of the revised CP, declines in culturally significant plant populations in the NPNHT corridor will be reversed through active management, and all federal agencies will identify, map, and develop, with input from affected tribes, a protection plan for culturally significant plants located in the NPNHT corridor.

Practice

1. Federal agencies shall protect and preserve critical plant resources such as unique, small populations or historically significant botanical resources.

Comments : _____

Timber Management

Objective

Within two years of the revised CP, all agencies will develop a timber management, in consultation with the NPNHT administrator, which will define how and when timber harvest can occur in the NPNHT corridors under their jurisdiction.

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Practice

1. Timber harvest of peeled trees shall not be allowed unless a safety concern arises.

Comments:

Energy and Minerals Exploration and Management in the NPNHT Corridor

Objective

Within two years of approval of the revised CP, all agencies will undertake the assessment to withdraw the NPNHT right-of-way from new energy and mineral development and development of new facilities for existing energy and mineral development.

Practices

1. No new surface occupancy (energy or minerals facilities) shall occur within the Trail corridor.
2. Controlled surface use stipulations (BLM Leasing Process Practices) shall be used.
3. Agencies shall work with proponents and leases to design and maintain facilities to preserve the visual integrity of the corridor and adjacent area.
4. Local agencies should cooperate with existing energy and mineral operations to develop mitigation measures to minimize impacts to the Trail.
5. Local agencies should partner with private landowners to protect the Trail corridor in areas of energy or mineral development.

Comments :

Did we miss something? Do you have other input?

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You can leave your comments with the NPNHT Staff if you attend one of the scheduled Public Meetings in September/October 2014.

Or Mail to:

Nez Perce National Historic Trail
Attn: Julie Molzahn US Forest Service
EIS/CP Revision Coordinator
PO Box 429
Plains MT 59859

Or access the website below and use the on line comment form and then email to:
npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us

www.fs.usda.gov/npnht

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