



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report* Winter 2017



Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

I'm grateful for this time of year as it gives me time to reflect and give thanks. Most of all, I'm thankful for our Trail families, partners, volunteers, friends, and supporters.

As we look ahead to 2017, we're excited to be your continued resource for information about the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The work we do together changes lives. Though many challenges lie ahead, we remain hopeful and excited for all the opportunities to come. The outstanding partnerships with whom we collaborate allow us to do so much more.

As we head into 2017 the staff of the NPNHT is grateful to have you with us as a dedicated supporter. We will continue to champion and invest in our partners and volunteers. Two new acts, the National Forest Stewardship Act and the National Recreation Act, are important pieces of legislation related to valuing trail experiences. Recreation and trails go hand-in-hand and are a couple of the agency's significant programs. These are exciting times as we have the opportunity to define what our role will be.

We make the biggest impact when we stand together and act from our hearts. Your generosity and enthusiasm shows that you share these same values we do about the Trail, auto tour route, and certified sites; and what kind of trail opportunities we leave our children and grandchildren and beyond. It is people like you who are at the heart of everything we do administering this National Trail. May the wonders of the "trail experience" bring joy to you and yours in the new year.

On behalf on the NPNHT staff, best wishes to you, your families, and your communities.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT

"...I escape nature for comfort, and learn about reverence in this place. I sense the unseen presence, and gasp upon seeing the presence I sensed... We share each other's reverence. Together, here in nature, I'm comforted." Unknown author



Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator NPNHT, at the recent
Capitol Christmas Tree event.

U.S. Forest Service photo



Capitol Christmas Tree Visits the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

The U.S. Forest Service has provided the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to grace the west lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington DC for 50 years. This year's tree came from the Payette National Forest and made stops in more than 30 communities including Moscow, Grangeville, and Lapwai, ID, on November 10, 2016.

The 80 foot Engelmann Spruce selected is a species native to the Forest. The Forest shared that it takes a year for planning and preparation to successfully work with many partners to cut and kick off the in-state and cross country tour of the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree. The Nez Perce National Historical Park in Spalding, ID, hosted one stop along the Capitol Christmas Tree's route. It was a beautiful, sunny day filled with visiting school children and interested people from around the area.



Kim Pierson, District Ranger from the Payette National Forest, provided everyone with an excellent history of the Christmas tree and the stops along its journey. (photo left) She shared that the tree was 84 years old when cut and weighed 16,500 pounds. The tree needed daily care filling an 80 gallon bladder with water to keep it fresh. Beautiful, creative ornaments were made by school children which adorned the tree representing state symbols of the great state of Idaho, such as the mountain bluebird, appaloosa horse, syringe flower, Cutthroat trout, and a huckleberry.

Dr. Mary Jane Miles, Chairwoman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, highlighted the Tribe's role in the ceremony of the tree, a staff assistant presented a letter from Senator Mike Crapo, and the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club rode in full regalia presenting a piece of the rich Nez Perce culture (photo above).



The Idaho Potato toured through the Idaho stops with the tree. The potato is the official vegetable for the state. The famous Idaho Potato weighs 6 tons. The Idaho Potato Tour began in 2012 and is now a big piece of pop culture.



Fun Facts:

The Christmas tree must be 65 to 85 feet tall, have full branches around the entire tree, be of a rich green color, and be cylindrical in shape.

This year it was cut using a crosscut saw to honor the traditional skills used in Wilderness areas.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT

All photos by Sandra Broncheau-McFarland U.S. Forest Service



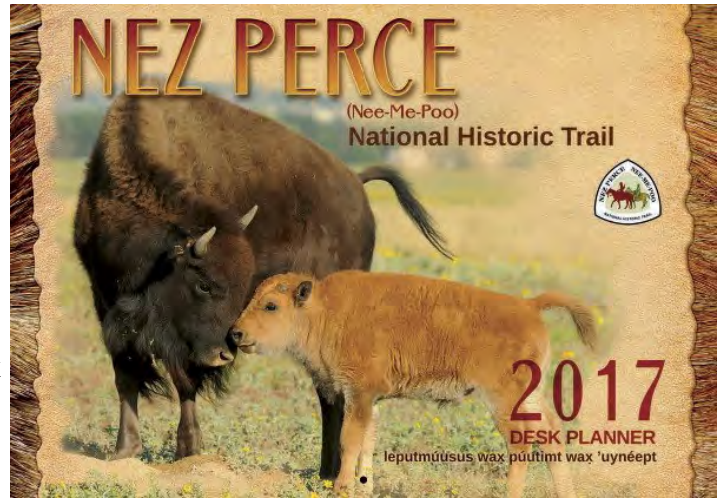
2017 Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic (NPNHT) Trail Desk Planners Distributed

The annual desk planner for 2017 arrived in mid-December, 2016, and just as quickly the planners were distributed to people across the region and country, along with a few international requests.

This year's version of the popular planner depicts wildlife along the NPNHT.

Work on the 2018 Desk Planner will begin soon. We are always looking for new and creative ideas. If any of our partners have an idea they would like to propose for a Desk Planner theme please share it with the NPNHT staff in the next couple of months.

We have a very limited number of planners left. If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or rmpeterson@fs.fed.us



Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Set to Unveil Infographic

On October 6, 2016, the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) entered our 30th year as a National Historic Trail. The staff of the NPNHT in partnership with the Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust has been working on a new Infographic which can be widely shared and will help visitors discover how they can interact with the Trail from both a historic and modern perspective.

This product highlights a number of activities, events, and locations along the entire 1,170 mile NPNHT. The infographic will be finalized in the next few days and we will begin sharing it with visitors in the near future.

The infographic points out features of the NPNHT including current points of interest which help visitors explore our public lands as well as the living Nez Perce culture.

The NPNHT staff plans to develop a series of infographics to help visitors connect with the NPNHT. This year commemorates the 140th year since the 1877 War and Flight of the Nez Perce.

Thanks again to Kris Komar with the Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust and Allegra Printing in Hamilton, MT, for your great work!

Kris Komar, Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



Nez Perce Tribe Hosts the First Native American Women's Writers Workshop

Mark your calendars and join us in a celebration of tribal stories during the first Native American Women's Writers Institute hosted by the Nez Perce Arts Council. In an effort to revive a greater sense of community in regard to the creation of more traditional storytelling and literary works within the tribal community, a need to learn more about how to publish books has been a discussion point for some time. You can take a couple of days at the planned workshops to gather together in a safe environment that support the participants to: find and express your authentic voice, access your creative power, and build community with others. The committee will seek to provide presenters that can advise you on how to tell stories using the Nez Perce language, embracing technology and media, and self-publish or professionally publish as authors of your own work as a family and/or a career goal. The Nez Perce Arts Council has developed a roster of experts and panelists to address issues you may be having and assist in every way we can to bring the group along to fulfill your aspirations.

Let us witness each other's stories with respect, inspiration, and uplifting ways. We invite you to come and share your stories. The workshops are free and people can register at the conference. If you can confirm your attendance by February 10, it will help event planners with planning for meals. For more information please contact: Ann McCormack, Economic Development Planner, Nez Perce Tribe, (208)621-3710 or annm@nezperce.org.



SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 17-20, 2017
NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S WRITERS INSTITUTE
HOSTED BY NEZ PERCE TRIBE NATIVE ART'S COUNCIL
Clearwater River Casino Miryooxat Conference Room

People who should attend are Native American Women and Tribal descendants that want to create stories both written or oral form. Experts will be on site to assist.

WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS WORKSHOPS
ALL ART FORMS: STORY TELLING, ORATION, FAMILY STORIES, SONGS, AUDIO BOOKS, JOURNALISM, SCREEN PLAYS, SCRIPTS, SELF-PUBLISHING, PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHING

AGENDA
Friday, Dinner 6:00
Saturday, Breakfast w Panel 8:30 – 10:00
Dinner Key Note & Open Mic 6:00 – 8:30
Sunday, Breakfast w Panel 8:30 – 10:00
Dinner Open Mic 6:00 – 8:30
Monday, Breakfast Recap, Survey/Evaluation 8:30 – 10:00

Clearwater River Casino Hotel Rooms (On Your Own) Conference Pricing:
\$65.00 per night (Register Early, 20 rooms available) Listed under "Native American Women's Writers Institute" Lodge phone number: (208) 746-0723
Food: Breakfast \$ 10.00, Dinner \$ 20.00 – Cost of Total Meals \$ 90.00 (On you own)

REGISTRATION DUE BY FEBRUARY 10, 2017
For a registration form contact: Ann McCormack, annm@nezperce.org or (208)621-3710

Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Unveils New Logo

At the end of the last Ice Age, some 12,000 to 17,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods occurred in what is now the northwest region of the United States, leaving a lasting mark of dramatic and distinguishing features on the landscape of parts of the States of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail ([IAFNGT](#)) was authorized by Congress on March 30, 2009.

After considerable time and effort put into developing a logo for the IAFNGT, the Logo Committee has recommended, and I have accepted, the design we believe best captures the essence of the meaning behind this national trail. During this process we faced a difficult task to capture something that was abstract, expressed itself visually in many different ways to represent the flood area, and reflected a story that is generally not well known to the public.

We started with several conceptual drawings from members of the logo committee and colleagues, but ended up using the services of a number of talented designers whose time was donated by their agency. During this process, a vast number of logos were drafted, but not chosen. Through this we learned the logic, recognition and cognitive association of a logo with its object. We appreciate all who worked on this and couldn't have done it without them.

Because of the difficulty in portraying the scientific nature of the trail, we spent considerable time focusing on designing a literal geologic translation of Ice Age Floods. However, what seemed to work in one place didn't in another. What worked for instantaneous public recognition didn't reflect the geologic accuracy this approach demanded. It took time for us to shift our point of view, but we were convinced when graphics designer Dan Coe with Washington Department of Natural Resources tried something different and it resonated with us. The adopted design is a contemporary scene that reflects the primary public purpose of the Trail as stated in its establishing legislation, to enable "the public to view, experience, and learn about the features and story of the Ice Age floods..."

I think this approach communicates that there is something incredible to see and experience as one travels along the route, something that is consistent with the overall interpretive goal and approach of the Trail.

While there may not be 100% concurrence for the logo from everyone, we think the logo to be distinctive enough that the public will be able to easily distinguish it from the many other trail logos in our Region. More importantly, we believe the logo captures the essence of the landscape that J. Harlan Bretz saw and used as the basis for first recognizing the former Ice Age Floods.

The effort on the logo is symbolic of the entire trail partnership. We have an immense story with many players and opinions to disseminate it. Tasks ahead of us will also take time to reach consensus, but that consensus will be the strength of the trail moving forward over the coming years, even as we all come and go in our various roles.

Dan Foster, Superintendent

The NPNHT and a number of its certified sites share landscapes with the IAFNGT across the northwest.



UPCOMING Events:



February-March, 2017 - Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)
February 12-15, 2017 - [Hike the Hill](#): Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC
February 18, 2017 - [Confluence](#) Story Gatherings Forum, Liberty Theater, Astoria, OR, 2-4 p.m. PST
March 13-17, 2017 - Native American Awareness Week Lewiston, ID
April 15, 2017 - [Confluence](#) Story Gatherings Forum, Alberta Rose Theatre, Portland, OR, 1-3 p.m. PDT
April 25, 2017 - Redheart Memorial, Fort Vancouver, WA
May 6, 2017 - [Confluence](#) Story Gatherings Forum, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, OR, 2-4 p.m. PDT
May 7-10, 2017 - [International Trails Symposium](#), Dayton, OH
May 19-20, 2017 - Indian Arts Festival Spring Pow Wow, LaGrande, OR
May 31—June 1, 2017 - [Partners Outdoors](#) 2017, Washington, DC
June 3, 2017 - [National Trails Day](#)



NPNHT Comprehensive Plan (CP) Revision Update

The Interdisciplinary Team to develop the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) corridor's existing condition is now in place. This team is staffed by members of the Forest Service Enterprise program. They are located in offices throughout the National Forest System. We have 10 natural resource experts working on the plan at this time. They are currently reviewing all existing direction from federal units along the Trail and then will be contacting their specialty area counterparts to gather specific resource information. The team includes two supporting personnel, a Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) and Writer/Editor to assist the team in the CP development.

The team's heritage resource specialist is completing additional archeologist site reports assessing the 43 remaining heritage sites identified in the 1990 CP. The NPNHT has already funded work assessing 36 of the 1990 CP heritage sites during the past 10 years.

There will be a field trip along the Trail in April which will start in Oregon and end in Yellowstone National Park. The schedule is to have most of the draft revised CP completed by September 30, 2017. There are some sections of the CP, required under the National Trails System Act, that are not funded at this time. As funding becomes available or is allocated those sections will be completed by the team at a later date. The NEPA assessment will follow the draft revised CP.

Right-of-Way (ROW)

The ROW alignment has been verified by all the federal units. Will Pedde, GIS Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region, will have the required primary centerline for the trail completed with a couple of minor exceptions by early February. The National Trails System Act requires one centerline as the ROW. We understand that the Nez Perce were not traveling in one group during the 1877 War and Flight. Additional routes of travel and military routes will be identified as side trails, which is permissible under the Act. The CP's Trail corridor will be overlaid on this ROW and all the corridor administrative guidance will apply to this corridor and not the additional side trails or the auto tours. In areas where the Trail is on roads, this is marked by an interim alignment until a trail can be located and built.

The Trail, off federal lands, follows interim locations on state and county roads until the staff develops agreements with landowners as to the Trail's final location and development. This process will take many years.

The next step is a review by Tribes, states, and county governments. As this is an administrative action required by the Act, there is no public review requirement. The Chief of the U.S. Forest Service is the recommending official to Congress for the ROW. Congress will then need to accept the ROW as part of the Act's requirements and update the Trail's congressional record. This will be completed through a notice in the Federal Register. Any future updates to the ROW will just require a notice in the Federal Register as to the changes.

The NPNHT staff encourages all people to comment. Comments can be sent to e-mail at jmolzahn@fs.fed.us or by postal service to Julie Molzahn, NPNHT CP Team, U.S. Forest Service Northern Region, PO Box 429, Plains, MT 59859.

Julie Molzahn, CP Revision Coordinator, NPNHT



Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this winter to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

Also check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

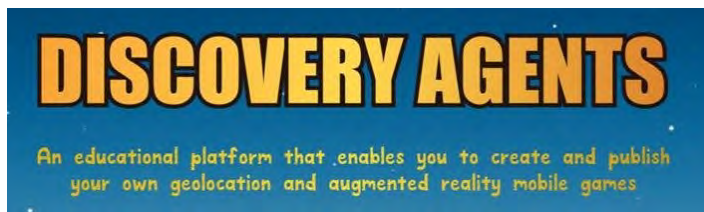
Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.

Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Partnering on New Educational App

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) will be one of 50 U.S. Forest Service sites nationwide to host a new digital game designed to get youth moving and learning in the outdoors. The platform for Discovery Agents (www.discoveryagents.net) functions like other popular game apps using geolocation and augmented reality to encourage young people (and probably a few of their parents, too) to explore the NPNHT in the Bitterroot Valley.



“We have so much to gain by collaborating to tell the stories along this millennia-old travel way, we’ve invited our partners to join us in this grand adventure,” said Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, NPNHT Administrator, who supports collaborative interpretive work in the Bitterroot Valley and wants to share the game by featuring all three National Trails running along the same alignment in the Valley of the Three Trails.

The NPNHT Discovery Agents game will use its 30 challenges to create three games.

The Travelers’ Rest State Park and the Travelers’ Rest Preservation Heritage Association, its nonprofit support group, will create a game of 10 challenges centered on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. That game will take place within the Park.

The Montana Natural History Center will work with its nonprofit partner, the Ice Age Floods Institute, to focus a game of 10 challenges on the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail. This trail will require parents or sibling drivers as the trail will take advantage of geologic features in various locations from Missoula to Sula.

The Ravalli County Museum will develop a game of 10 challenges that will feature the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. This game will also require moving from place to place.

McFarland also stated, “To make this work financially, the U.S. Forest Service Washington Office Conservation Education program is contributing \$5000 to the effort with the local partners contributing a matching amount. To date, the NPNHT and Travelers Rest Preservation Heritage Association have made commitments to participate financially. We are so pleased that working together we can bring this project to life.”

The Discovery Agent game package will keep the games online for at least three years. Design teams are thinking of ways they can update and change games periodically so that they can be played over and over to learn new aspects of each National Trail.

Each game’s design team will have a unique Field Agent leading game participants. The NPNHT Field Agent will be a young female coyote with traditional regalia including a fan, shawl, cuffs, abalone earrings, and a corn husk or beaded bag. The Field Agent for the Ice Age National Geologic Trail will be a period appropriate (13-15,000 years ago) woolly mammoth, and the Lewis and Clark Field Agent will be a Lewis Woodpecker.

Those who successfully complete the games will be directed to a location to receive their prizes. Knowing the fun loving design teams, Discovery Agent game players can count on special prizes that will continue the learning and fun.

Kris Komar, Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust

Idaho Chapter Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) Hosts Presentation

On Saturday February 11, 2017, Kris Townsend will share a photo journalist talk at the Nez Perce National Historical Park at Spalding, ID starting at 2 p.m. (PST). His presentation is entitled “Photo Journalism on the Lewis and Clark Trail: An Adventure Worth Sharing.” Kris will be sharing journal entries and matching photographs while telling the stories it took to capture them—from what the Expedition experienced to what he had to do to replicate the experience. He plans to focus on mostly on the Upper Missouri River, Lolo Trail, and Clearwater River segments of the Trail. Of local interest, he will include some of his photos of trail researcher Gene Eastman’s proposed route down to Hungery Creek, a handmade wooden drift boat, and John Fisher’s quest for ‘canoe’ logs on the Clearwater River. He will also show and discuss recent drone photography and video of the Lolo Trail. The presentation is open to the public and everyone is invited. Kris’s website is <http://lewisandclark.today>.



February 11, also marks the birthday of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau “Pomp” the son of Sacagawea and Toussaint Charbonneau. Following Kris’s talk birthday cake will be served to celebrate this event in 1805.





News From the National Park Service: Nez Perce National Historical Park

As the bitter cold and snow continue to embrace us this winter, Nez Perce National Historical Park is proud to have presented two major events. In November, in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service, the National Christmas Tree made a stop at the Park and more than 300 visitors came out to see it (*photo below*). It was a beautiful day and visitors were able to sign the tree banner, see the Idaho Potato Truck, interact with the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club members who were in regalia, and take photographs with the tree before it continued its journey to the Nation's capital (*see more information on page 2*).



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

In December, the 20th Annual Beadwork Bazaar took place at the Visitor Center. There were more than 25 vendors that offered a large variety of beadwork, weaving, and other hand crafted goods. During the six hour event more than 250 visitors came out to enjoy the great holiday deals. It was a fun time for everyone involved.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

This winter the Park's facility staff has been staying warm when possible, and spending a great deal of time with snow removal operations. They have also made some vast improvements to the public restrooms at the Visitor Center. Six new sinks were installed in the men's and women's restrooms which meet ADA requirements and include ecofriendly faucets. The faucets are now timed push buttons, which greatly reduce water use and waste. Both restrooms were also given a fresh coat of paint to spruce things up.

It was a relief that the Park was able to replace several building roofs at the Spalding location before snow became an issue. The Visitor Center had a few instances this summer when the roof leaked in the lobby. To mitigate this problem a new hypalon roof was installed, which replaced the old roof that was installed in 1992. The hypalon roof is made out of a rubber-like material and will easily last another 20 plus years. The maintenance and storage buildings also had new roofs installed this fall. The original cedar shingle roofs were replaced with metal, which are anticipated to last much longer and be more cost effective.

As the weather warms and the days grow longer be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming Park events. National Parks Week takes place in April, which will include a special Junior Ranger event. We also anticipate a volunteer event at White Bird Battlefield. Until then, come out and visit the Park.

Brett Spaulding
Supervisory Park Ranger
Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

Park staff would like to send a big shout out to members of Friends of Bear Paw, Big Hole, and Canyon Creek Battlefields who cleaned up a large amount of trash that had been dumped at the Canyon Creek Battlefield in mid-January. Canyon Creek is unstaffed, but this dedicated group of individuals work without compensation to protect the place. This is just one example of the good works that our friends group has done.

Do you have a special story or skill that you would like to share? Big Hole National Battlefield is looking for cultural demonstrators to share their stories and skills with the public. We are seeking interested participants for Coyote Camp (May 22 -26) and the Summer Speaker Series (potential weekend dates starting with June 24 - August 13). Housing, mileage, per diem, and honorarium will be provided. If you are interested in being a part of either (or both) of these exciting programs please contact the Park for an application at (406) 689-3155 or e-mail: BIHO_Visitor_Information@nps.gov. All applications must be received by March 1, 2017.

With the coming of winter visitation has dropped and snow has arrived in the Big Hole Valley. We closed the road to the lower parking lot and trail heads for the winter, but visitors can still access the lower parking lot, camp site, siege area, and Howitzer Hill by snowshoeing or cross country skiing. The Park loans snowshoes on days when the temperature exceeds zero degrees. If you do stop by this winter, please be aware of wildlife while out on the trails. In January a visitor encountered a moose in the lower parking lot (*see photo, moose is close to the lower right*). He smartly backtracked up the hill and let the moose have its space!



Photo Courtesy of Brad Gansky

Rebekah Jones, Lead Park Ranger, Big Hole National Battlefield



Bear Paw Battlefield

One of my priorities since arriving has been to continue to strengthen relationships with local schools. We've been able to work with elementary schools, high schools, and most recently visited a Hutterite school. Many of the conversations with teachers and classroom visits are in preparation for them visiting the battlefield in the spring of 2017.

An interesting interactions happened back in November when we were able to visit with the 4th grade class from Meadowlark Elementary here in Chinook. First we visited them in the classroom, and then they came to visit the battlefield a few days later. During both visits the students were invited to share their thoughts on perspectives on various aspects of the Flight of 1877. One conversation that stood out to me focused on the three young warriors Shore Crossing, Red Moccasin Tops, and Strong Eagle; the three young men responsible for the retaliatory attacks that in retrospect would seem to escalate the ensuing conflict. After the end of the tour the students were asked what lessons they might take away that are still important today. While some students sympathized with these young warrior's motivations, many thought it was still important to listen to the wishes of your elders, teachers, and parents because of their experience and wisdom.

I think it especially understandable that 4th graders would focus on the younger people in the story. While perhaps that was not the focus or point I would have made, it was great to hear students drawing their own meaning and lessons from such an important part of our shared history.

Conversations with the high school history and social studies classes have been revealing as well. I believe strongly in the old axiom, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," as stated by George Santayana. I always like to ask students about parallels to other events and lessons that we could learn from it. They were ready with examples of related historic and current events. The youth are our future and it is looking bright.

While I could go on indefinitely about inspiring and invigorating conversations with students, a conversation with Michael Inman our Friends group treasurer and local Chinook resident also has me very excited. In December I met with Mike to learn more about our Friends group, and how we might be able help each other. (*continued on page 10*)



When I asked about potential volunteer help to repaint our badly weather battlefield sign in the summer, Mike had a brilliant yet simple idea which I had not considered before. Why not take the sign down now and let one of the Friends group members work on it over the winter?

This may seem like a simple project to many who might wonder why I even mention it. What we have is an example of the stewardship we all strive for in our mission. We cannot complete the important task of protecting these sites and sharing their rich history on our own. To see members of the public form a group to help protect these lands brings me comfort and reassurance. Having people take ownership and actively engage in stewardship of their own lands is perhaps our best chance of longevity and measure of success simultaneously. Special thanks to Mike and all the members of the Friends of Bear Paw, Big Hole and Canyon Creek Battlefields!

At the time of writing this we are waiting for the paint to dry before reinstalling the sign (*photos below*).

Casey Overturf, Lead Park Ranger, Bear Paw Battlefield



Photos Courtesy of the National Park Service



News From the Forest Service: Bitterroot National Forest

A crew maintained 3.1 miles of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) from the road off of U.S. Highway 93, near Sula, MT, to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail #9.

It was generally in good condition. The trail crew removed several hundred feet of brush and cut saplings from an old fire; they also pulled a fair amount of knapweed (*photo right*).

Deb Gale, Supervisory Wilderness and Recreation Specialist



U.S. Forest Service photo

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The start of 2017 has brought some much anticipated snow to Lolo Pass. As of January, Lolo Pass had more than 50 inches of snow on the ground. All of the winter trails are being groomed and our avalanche beacon training park is available to visitors.

On Saturday February 18, the Visitor Center will be hosting a non-motorized Winter Skills Demo Day. We will have local experts on-site to answer questions and demonstrate the latest in gear and equipment. We will have sessions featuring winter camping skills, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, mountain surfing, and avalanche beacon use.

We are excited to announce that we are busy planning an event packed summer season. Starting in May, we will be hosting a busy calendar of interpretive events highlighting the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, its historic users and the Nez Perce culture and history in the Lochsa area. Interpreters interested in presenting a program at Lolo Pass this season, please contact Colleen Mathisen at colleen.mathisen@discovernw.org.





News From the Forest Service: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Crews were busy this past year along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail #40.

Annual maintenance

Annual trail maintenance was performed again via an agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe. The tribal trail crew worked an 18 mile section from the trailhead at Musselshell Meadows to the 500 Road, one mile east of Beaver Dam Saddle. Trees that could not be stepped over were removed and the cut ends were “naturalized” by whittling with the chainsaw tip and bar (*photo right*).

The cut sections of the wind felled trees were rolled out of sight of the trail. Waterbars and drainage dips were dug out to specification. The crew also replaced, with rock, several burnt out waterbars in the Beaver Dam Saddle area.



U.S. Forest Service photo

Trailhead restoration



U.S. Forest Service photo

In July the Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) from Pierce, ID, helped re-align 600 feet of trail tread at the Musselshell Meadows trailhead. The pack bridge across the creek had been moved in 2011 and the new trail crossed an uneven section of old river bed. The crew placed rocks help channel traffic, and then partially filled with gravel to smooth the tread. Finally they planted white pine seedlings between the trail and the road to act as a visual buffer.

Fire damage recovery

About 3.5 miles of trail were burnt over during the 2015 fire season, between Lolo Forks and Beaver Dam Saddle. Another ¾ of a mile in the Green Saddle area also suffered fire damage.

Bridge and approach

In October the Pierce trail crew replaced 27 burnt out log waterbars with rock on the trail in the Green Saddle area (*photo below*). Burnt signs and posts were also replaced.

Naturalization and drainage structure replacement on the other sections will be done in 2017.

Carol Hennessey, Recreation Wilderness Trails Rivers Outfitter Program Manager Nez Perce –Clearwater National Forests



U.S. Forest Service photo



How to Contact Us:

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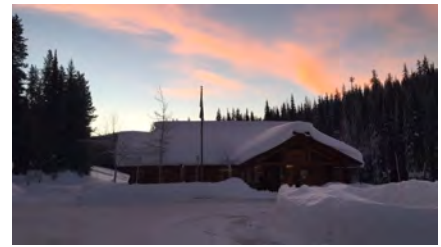


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Winter Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Pompeys Pillar, near Billings, MT.
BLM Photo



Winter sunset at Lolo Pass.
U.S. Forest Service photo



January day at the Canyon
Creek Battlefield monument
near Laurel, MT.
National Park Service Photo



Nez Perce camp at Big Hole National
Battlefield, near Wisdom, MT.
National Park Service photo



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