



United States Department of Agriculture

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

Progress Report

Spring 2018

Administrator's Corner

Ah pah ahl-May is the season of making Up pa (baked loaf) from ground khouse, a traditional plant utilized by the Nez Perce and May is a time when the earth is renewing itself. It is appropriate that we acknowledge spring, be thankful, and to begin looking forward to working with Trail partners and projects for the new season.

Partners, Partners, Partners. Central to the mission of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is bringing groups and individuals together to leverage our collective resources to help steward the NPNHT.

We've made so much progress this last few months and we were honored to work with all of our partners. We have a direction Montana Historic Scenic Byway Assessment is being completed, more information can be found on page 11. We have accomplished so much together to make a number of amazing projects come alive. We are poised to take our programming to the next level.

2018 will bring even more partnerships. In addition to continuing work with our partners from previous years, we've also lined up some exciting partners. We worked with Mayor Dominic Farrenkopf of Hamilton, MT, City Council and Ravalli County Museum to select Riverside Park as our first site for the upcoming unveiling of our Agents of Discovery Mission Agent Coyote Avatar. Our partnership with Agents of Discovery allows us to provide a new way for young people of all ages to explore the outdoors and learn about the world around them. We also reached out to our friends to share in the fun and create missions to support the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail as well. Agents of Discovery is one way we can work together to do our part to connect youth with a more inclusive history of the NPNHT and build a stronger stewardship of our shared resources. See page 11 of this report for more information.

In the coming year, you'll see expanded opportunities to help us in our efforts. Whether it is by hitting the Trail for our ever-growing list of volunteer projects helping to support our volunteer efforts or donating your knowledge and skill set to assist us in celebrating the [50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act](#). This event provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to focus much greater attention to the NPNHT. During this special anniversary help us to organize 50th Anniversary celebrations along the Trail and Auto Tour Route. There are many ways to participate. Send us your photos of your experiences, host an event, give a presentation or demonstration, create your own YouTube video, the sky is the limit! Your support is critical to our success. We have also [created a web page](#) listing events happening along the NPNHT this summer to help celebrate the 50th, check in often for regular updates. In the mean time we'll continue to work hard each and every day on your behalf to help take care of the NPNHT that we all care so deeply about.

During this anniversary year we'd like to take time to reflect on and recognizing the inspirational work by those who had the vision to create the National Trails System. The article on starting on page 2 of this report provides more insight into the vision and dedication required to create the National Trails System we have today.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead



Forest
Service



Nez Perce
National Historic Trail

May
2018



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in Washington, State

Visiting With National Trails Visionaries: Dan Ogden and Jean Matthews

By Dana Hendricks, PCTA Regional Representative, This essay first appeared in the [PCTA Communicator magazine](#).

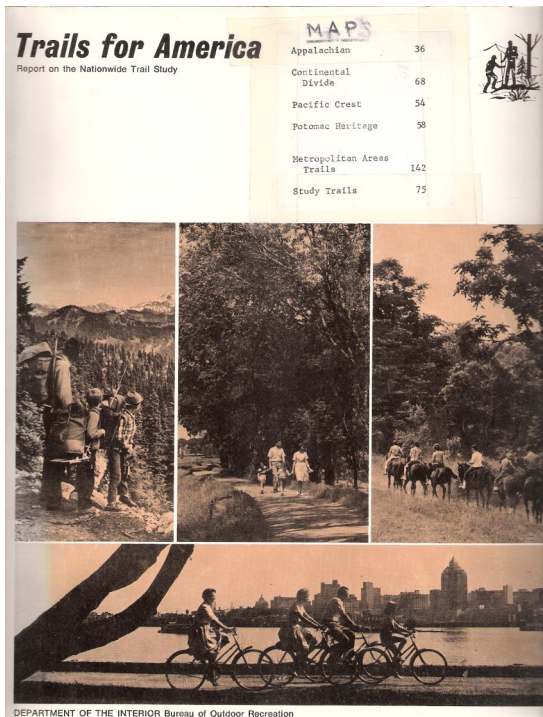
When I hiked the Appalachian Trail fresh out of college in 1996, the National Trails System was something I pretty much took for granted. I didn't wonder much about the foresight and courage it must have taken to formally set aside extensive tracts of land for trails that enabled humble people like me to journey through spectacular landscapes.

As I grow wiser and ever more embroiled in complex efforts to maintain and protect National Scenic Trails, I'm increasingly impressed that the National Trails System Act ever passed. That landmark 1968 legislation, which recognized, designated, and federally protected the Pacific Crest and Appalachian trails, took more than just a neat idea. The visionaries behind it were well aware that the way would be politically arduous.

There still is a lot of resistance and controversy. That's why, in my work for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), I've done a lot of research into the origins and enabling legislation of these great trails – the PCT in particular – searching for the sparks that crystallized the motivation in the right moments.



L-R: Dana Hendricks and Dan Ogden visit in Cascade Locks, OR, in 2015.



So I was floored last summer when I received a typewritten note from a 93-year-old man in Vancouver, WA, interested in meeting leaders of the PCTA. "My name is Dan Ogden. In 1966 ... I was assigned the task of heading the Trails for America study."

With anticipation, I opened my yellowed 1966 copy of this groundbreaking study (*photo left*) calling for a system of trails, which became the basis of the National Trails System Act. Sure enough, the first name under the credits was "Daniel M. Ogden, Jr., Assistant Director for Planning and Research, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, chairman."

I called and asked if we could meet. I had a zillion questions about the founding legislation. I was particularly interested in how the vision for the National Trails ultimately became compelling for the people who made the legislation happen. When I visited with Dan in July of 2015, I found that he likes to downplay his role. "I had less to do with drawing up the ideas than I had with making things move," he said. "I came with more political experience than most of the staff and had good connections in the Congress."

With a Ph.D. in political science and having organized two big White House conferences on conservation (one of which featured John F. Kennedy), Ogden was a natural. He was delighted to head the trails study. Having grown up in a household that never owned an automobile, he's no stranger to the values of walking.

"I like to walk. Walked four miles a day for many years." He remembers with fondness hiking in Shenandoah and the Columbia River Gorge and climbing peaks in Colorado. He's a big fan of the extensive system of metropolitan trails in greater Portland, OR, near his home. He's a believer in the value of trails for all people.

"I am very proud of my role in getting the National Trails System bill enacted," he said. "It was part of a grand effort to save the out of doors for the American people."

A little background on the political climate of his day: The post-war boom of the 1950s included a rush to build interstate highways and huge dams. Little heed was given to conservationists' outcry about pollution and unchecked development. An increasingly urban population no longer made its living in the outdoors — as a result, many sought the outdoors during their free time. But what they encountered outdoors was a scarcity of unmarred natural landscapes. As the 1950s pushed on, the concern grew that America was becoming ugly.



At a time when many of conservation's key messages alienated supporters of industry and progress, the importance of getting out and into nature had an appeal that crossed political lines. In 1958, Congress approved – with bipartisan support – the creation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC). Republican Dwight Eisenhower was president. By 1962, the commission presented extensive research indicating that outdoor recreation resources were needed nationwide. They found that “walking for pleasure” was among the top activities Americans enjoyed and “hiking” was projected to increase substantially.

By 1966 the ORRRC report had already spurred an incredible string of major conservation legislation. As part of the overall vision, a trails study was commissioned. Trails for America was so well received that, in 1968, the National Trails System Act passed nearly unanimously in both houses of Congress. This seems astonishing since President Lyndon B. Johnson was wrestling simultaneously with many issues of national importance, including space travel, civil rights, the Vietnam War, draft resistance and riots. I can't help but keep wondering what kind of stars had to align to make trails rise to the top of anyone's agenda.

A lot of it had to do with Stewart Udall and his amazing team, including Dan Ogden. From 1961 to 1969, Udall was the secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. His 1963 book, *The Quiet Crisis*, warned of increasing pollution, abuse of natural resources and rapidly disappearing open space. Perhaps his message got traction because it kept coming back to quality of life, or simply put – quality.

“One of the paradoxes of American society is that while our economic standard of living has become the envy of the world, our environmental standard has steadily declined. We are better housed, better nourished, and better entertained, but we are not better prepared to inherit the earth or to carry on the pursuit of happiness.”

Udall enlisted the support of the first lady, “Lady Bird” Johnson, in the pursuit of preserving natural beauty, Dan recalled. “We all worked hard to get language in a presidential message which would call for a national trails study, and succeeded,” Dan wrote in a 2008 PCT Communicator article.

Udall's ideas about quality aligned with the concerns LBJ and his wife had about ugliness and natural beauty. While these might sound like frivolous concerns in a time of great strife, these concepts had serious implications. Natural beauty was linked to mental health, and mental health was sorely needed by a troubled nation. Johnson's natural beauty message of 1965 declared: “The beauty of our land is a natural resource. Its preservation is linked to the inner prosperity of the human spirit.” That's why it is precisely at such moments of strife and anxiety that outdoor recreation outlets become so critically needed.

Udall understood the importance of messaging. He employed writers able to inspire and savvy people such as Ogden who could move the ideas along. The words from Udall and Johnson's time are words that still deeply move conservation professionals and volunteers today. Words with poetic qualities on par with the Wilderness Act appear in the Trails for America study. I read an opening passage out loud to Dan and asked who wrote it:

“The forgotten outdoorsmen of today are those who like to walk, hike, ride horseback or bicycle. For them we must have trails as well as highways. Nor should motor vehicles be permitted to tyrannize the more leisurely human traffic. ... As with so much of our quest for beauty and quality, each community has opportunities for action.”

While Johnson said these words as part of a speech calling for the trails study, Dan suspects Udall wrote them. What about this one, I asked, now reading from the section on National Scenic Trails:

“The spirit of adventure springs ever anew in the hearts of Americans, young and old. In no way is it better satisfied than in the exploration of unfamiliar terrain or in the discovery of the beauties of nature. Long-distance trails can provide unparalleled opportunities for such adventure and such satisfaction.”

Dan said: “That sounds like Jean Matthews. She lives near here. You might want to meet her.” Jean and Dan were old friends. “I think Jean had a bit to do with finishing touches on this. She knew what Udall would like.”

Dan gave me her phone number. Once again I was starstruck at the chance of meeting another visionary. The first time I called her, she hung up on me. I had to call back and quickly explain I wasn't asking for money. Her tone became warm, and she invited me to her house in August of 2015.



L-R: Dana Hendricks, Dan Ogden, and Jean Matthews, 2015.

Jean (Worth) Matthews worked as an information officer and speechwriter for the Department of the Interior from 1962 to 1968. After that she went on to a highly productive career with the National Park Service. Sitting with her – she is 95 – you can still feel the electricity she brought to her work. She says the whole team was excited to get all this stuff passed. Of her time directly under Udall, she said: “You know every time I got a speech to do I went to Dan because he knew everything that was going on. ... My job description was to understand the Secretary’s position on all matters. And believe me that was made into a joke. Often!”

I showed her some of those inspiring passages from Trails for America. Was she involved? “Not that I recall. At least not directly.” As for the American Beauty message: “He (LBJ) and Udall were like ‘that’ [fingers crossed] on that beautification thing, and Udall may have given him stuff that I wrote.” When she showed me some of words she wrote, I believed it. Wow!

Jean was the author (although she didn’t get a byline) of the Interior Department’s special report to the nation called The Race for Inner Space, which appeared the year after Udall published The Quiet Crisis. It, and the subsequent annual reports she wrote, really helped Udall unify the department around conservation. Reading these passages you can feel the resonance of the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the National Trails System Act, all of which Jean helped Udall argue in favor of.

“Who can put a price tag on the health and serenity resulting from days spent in the outdoors?”

“The tides come and go at the call of a constant moon — the trees leaf and the sap rises under the steady baton of the seasons. Something of this solid, elemental march — of seas and seasons and stars — communicates itself to the harried, hurried human being when he is able to find the time and the opportunity for outdoor leisure experiences. If these opportunities are to be part of tomorrow’s America, we must act to save them today.”

A heart-wrenching letter from a boy named Scott Turner (*photo right*) came into the Interior Department and Jean answered on Udall’s behalf. The Race for Inner Space reported: “Scott’s letter and Interior’s reply on behalf of the President received a blaze of attention — column upon column of newsprint testified to the effect that the Nation was in sympathy with one little boy’s search for inner space.” Jean recalls receiving a note from Udall afterward, offering humble thanks and congratulations. “He said: ‘I never even read that letter.’”

There’s something about us that needs the wild outdoors, something that isn’t quite right without it. These 1960s visionaries understood this. While this inspiration and a lot of handshakes helped the early- and mid-20th century founders of the AT and PCT make considerable headway, ultimately the vision was too grand to be sustainable without national legislation. In Dan’s 2008 PCT Communicator article, he remarked about the “pressures of urban living” and that National Scenic Trails were meant to ensure us the “opportunity to return to the land as our forefathers knew it, to enjoy it, and to respect it in all its primitive beauty.” Similarly, Udall said: “Traveling on foot or horseback down any one of those trails provides an intense exposure to a world that would otherwise be accessible only in history books and atlases.”

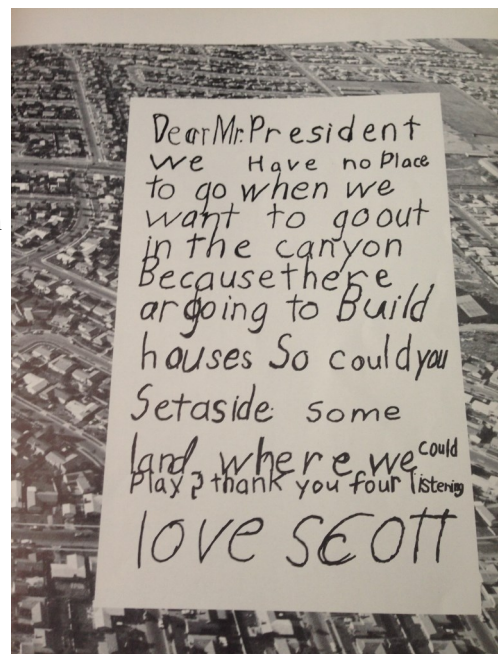
I asked Dan what he thinks of the present state of National Scenic Trails. Did he ever imagine there would be 11? “Yes we did.” He says the team under Udall and Johnson always envisioned trails as an important part of the total conservation effort. What did he think of the challenges we continue to face in trail protection today? “I’m sure that back and forth goes on, it did for us too...Of course, it was the reason for making it national legislation.”

I asked Jean what she thought of the importance of the rugged primitive experience, with opportunities for solitude, that we were working to preserve along the PCT. She nodded her head, smiling. “Vignettes of the past,” she said. She fondly recalled skiing on Mount Hood as a teen. “They had no rope tows, no chair lifts, they didn’t have even Timberline Lodge. ... God, it was wonderful. You could be all alone up there and never hear another sound.”

Then she said: “You know, I’m beginning to realize that it was a really unbelievable time. It was like the flower ... you know as Buddha says when conditions are right, a manifestation occurs. And I think all the conditions had been building rightly up to that time”

I would have given anything to see all that in action. Having visited with these visionaries fills me with gratitude and reminds me how important it is to keep up the work of protecting and preserving the rare and valuable experiences they fought to make possible.

Note: Dan passed away in, in February of 2018. [Obituary published by the Columbian newspaper, Vancouver, WA.](#)



Celebrate 50 Years of National Trails

In his 1965 “Natural Beauty Message” to Congress, President Lyndon B. Johnson inspired a national “system of trails” for the American people. Congress passed the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Johnson on October 2, 1968.

Today, the National Trails System (NTS) includes 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 National Historic Trails, including the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT), authorized by Congress, and more than 1,200 National Recreation Trails (including 21 National Water Trails). Preservation and development of Rail Trails is also fostered in this act.

These trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities, promote resource preservation and public access, and encourage the appreciation of the great outdoors and America’s history and cultural diversity.

Facts:

National Scenic and Historic Trails

- 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 National Historic Trails authorized by Congress
- More than 55,000 miles through 49 States in wild, rural, suburban, and urban areas
- Connect and travel through 70 wildlife refuges 80 national parks, 90 national forests, 100 Bureau of Land Management field office areas more than 120 Wilderness areas, numerous State and local parks, trails, other protected areas, and 100 major urban areas
- More than 1 million hours of volunteer labor to build and maintain annually
- The NPNHT was added to this system by Congress as a National Historic Trail in 1986
- The NPNHT stretches from the vicinity of Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT. The 1170 mile NPNHT includes a designated corridor which encompasses 4161 miles of roads, trails and routes.

More facts about the NPNHT can be found on the [NPNHT website](#).

Throughout the summer of 2018 the staff of the NPNHT along with several partners will be hosting booths at a number of local festivals. The staff of the NPNHT has created a website highlighting events happening along the NPNHT this summer. [Please visit frequently as we’ll be adding activities in the coming weeks.](#)

For a list of all 50th Events happening nationally please visit: <https://www.trails50.org/find-an-event/>

This anniversary is a golden opportunity for all Americans to not just celebrate trails –all trails – but to learn about them, enjoy them, and protect them. For the next two years, the anniversary celebration, Trails50, will engage the American public with lively and interactive social media campaigns and events in their local communities, and spur a new level of awareness and engagement for all generations.

Go ahead – wear your heart on your sleeve – or on your backpack: this is a time of celebration!

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, along with information from the [Partnership for the National Trails](#)

Lochsa Madness: Celebrating 50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers

Every year, Memorial Day Weekend draws a crowd of people to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests for Lochsa Madness—a weekend of river adventure as whitewater enthusiasts take advantage of spring runoff and wild water on the Lochsa River.

This year, the celebration will be bigger and better than ever, with events all weekend long celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Wild and Scenic Lochsa River was one of the original rivers designated under this Act in 1968, which continues to protect the river’s free-flowing waters and outstanding scenery and recreation. This event is also happening along the [Auto Tour route](#) for the NPNHT. For more information please visit the [Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests website](#).



**Find
YOUR
Trail**
Discover. Connect.
Explore.



Canoe Notes From the Josephy Library of Western History and Culture

Allen Pinkham Jr. was here this weekend (late April) working on the canoe. He had some help in a Saturday work party, and the small canoe--16 feet--Is looking like a canoe. To remind, we had it in the water much earlier--Allen wanted to make sure it floated right, without tilting port or starboard. It did, and we got some pictures, etc. See the article in the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail's [Fall 2017 Progress Report](#).

Which means that he could start thinking about the finer points of design and function: making sure the bow is heavier to compensate for the oarsman in the rear; comparing the shapes of bow and stern to photos of old canoes and the new ones being built by river and coastal tribes. It means we took off another 50 pounds I guess. Allen estimates weight at around 300 pounds now, and thinks we can take off more as we clean up the inside hull. Here is what it looks like now, blunt bow to left:

The next move is to finish this one and begin on two 30 foot logs now stored in Jim Zacharias' yard. Allen talked with Jim this weekend, and the plan is to float the two logs in Wallowa Lake and establish their density--I.e. find the natural bottom of the canoe.

After that--and this is a variation on earlier plan--both logs will be hauled to the Josephy Center, and with a little bit of space on neighbor Sports Corral's side yard, set them both up to be carved. One will be worked--as this one has been worked--with power tools. The other will be stone and fire. Well, antler, stone and fire to burn out the hull. The power



-tool canoe will be another workshop lab, as the 16 footer has been, aimed at making the traditional canoe better.

This all started when Allen taught a beading workshop here a few years ago and said something like "You know, we [Nez Perce] were canoe people long before we were horse people. I'd like to come back and carve one. Well--our goal is to help him carve three!

Rich Wandschneider, Director, Josephy Library of Western History and Culture



Stay Safe on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and Auto Tour Route

The winter snow is receding and spring fever has many people excited to get outside and explore the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and Auto Tour Route. Many National Forest System roads are still not accessible due to mud, snow, or snow drifts. In addition, traveling on thawing, saturated, and muddy roads can result in resource damage and serious safety concerns, especially if visitors are unprepared. Spring storms can trigger unexpected flooding, rock slides, and falling limbs and trees, which can cause roads to become impassable in a matter of minutes.

Be prepared and plan for the unexpected. The following tips can help you prepare for a safe visit.

Keep in mind that cell phones are not likely to work in many locations along the Trail.

Visit or call your local Ranger District office for the latest updates regarding weather, snow levels, and driving conditions.

Let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return.

Take adequate food, water, and blankets in case you do have to spend the night. Bring a customized first aid kit including any needed prescribed medications.

We also encourage visitors to minimize impacts to natural resources from travel on roads that are susceptible to rutting due to warmer weather and melting snowpack.

Be sure to recognize some roads remain seasonally closed for wildlife or resource concerns in spite of early access. Mud bogging is not allowed. We encourage forest users to responsibly enjoy their National Forest roads and trails.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT



Image Courtesy of Tread Lightly



Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this spring 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.



NPNHT Comprehensive Plan Revision Update

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Comprehensive Plan (CP) Interdisciplinary Team has completed their existing condition assessment reports. These reports will shape the CP and the associated environmental assessment as they are drafted. The existing condition reports also provide a basis for assessing what changes are needed from existing management plan direction. A preliminary Draft CP is anticipated in the late summer/early fall of 2018.

Ryan Domsalla, CP Revision Coordinator, NPNHT

Next Exit History on the Nez Perce Trail on Next Exit History

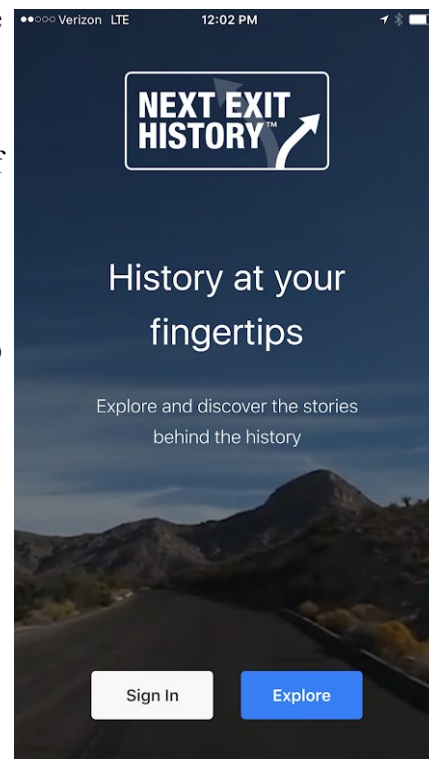
The USDA Forest Service Washington Office Heritage Program has provided the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) with the opportunity to showcase the NPNHT Auto Tour on the Next Exit History App.

Developed by a team of historians and instructional designers at the University of West Florida, the Next Exit History App connects the public to historic landscapes. The App can be downloaded from iTunes or Google Play and NPNHT content will be ready to go in early June.

Partner Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust (BRCHT), will be populating the App with the NPNHT Auto Tour from Lolo Pass to Bannock State Park. The beginning and end of the Trail will be added at a later date.

“The App is great as it can be downloaded into a ‘backpack’ so that it can be used even in areas where there is no connectivity,” reported Sandra Broncheau-McFarland. “And...,” adds Kristine Komar, BRCHT, “this platform is great for extended learning as it can accommodate links to all sorts of data. It is also capable of hosting video. We are excited to work with it and learn all that is possible.”

Kristine Komar, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust



UPCOMING Events:



May 18-19, 2018 — Eastern Oregon University Indian Arts Festival, Pow Wow and Friendship Feast, La Grande, OR
May 19, 2018—Culture Day, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, ID
June 2, 2018 — National Trails Day
June 9, 2018 — National Get Outdoors Day, fees waived at U.S. Forest Service sites that require a fee, (check with local units)
June 16, 2018— White Bird Battle Memorial, White Bird, ID
June 15-17, 2018 — Chief Joseph & Warriors Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID
July 6-8, 2018 — Wildhorse Pow Wow, Pendleton, OR
July 6-8, 2018 — Native Artists in Residence Gayle Bear and Jordanna Bear, Lolo Pass Visitor Center
July 6—8, 2018 — Lapwai Days, Lapwai, ID
July 20—22, 2018— Nez Perce Tamkaliks Celebration & Friendship Feast, Wallowa, OR
July 23—27, 2018 —54th Annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride. Tolo Lake, ID
July 26, 2018—Migratory Bird and National Trails Day Celebration at Heritage Hall, Fort Missoula, MT
August 11, 2018 — Big Hole Battle Memorial, Wisdom, MT
August 11-13, 2018—Native Artist in Residence Jenny Williams, Lolo Pass Visitor Center
August 9-12, 2018 — Omak Stampede and Indian Encampment, Omak, WA



Yellowstone National Park Changes Entrance Fee

The National Park Service (NPS) announced in April that Yellowstone National Park will modify its entrance fees beginning June 1, 2018, to provide additional funding for infrastructure and maintenance needs that enhance the visitor experience. Effective June 1, the Park entrance fee will be \$35 per vehicle or \$30 per motorcycle. An annual Park pass will cost \$70.

The NPS last October proposed a plan to adopt seasonal pricing at Yellowstone and 16 other National Parks to raise additional revenue for infrastructure and maintenance needs. The fee structure recently announced addresses many concerns and ideas provided by the public on how best to address fee revenue for parks.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Revenue from entrance fees remains in the National Park Service and helps ensure a quality experience for all who visit. In Yellowstone, 80 percent of entrance fees stay in the Park and are devoted to spending that supports the visitor.

“Yellowstone uses revenues from entrance fees collected to improve visitor facilities,” said Superintendent Dan Wenk. Visitors benefit when Park roads, trails, and boardwalks are maintained and provide access to the Park’s treasures.”

National Parks have experienced record breaking visitation, with more than 1.5 billion visitors in the last five years. Yellowstone National Park experienced the second busiest year on record in 2017. The Park recorded 4,116,525 visits, a slight decrease from 2016.

Yellowstone National Park has had an entrance fee since 1916. The current rate of \$30 per vehicle or \$25 per motorcycle has been in effect since 2015. The Park is one of 117 in the National Park System that charges an entrance fee. The remaining 300 sites are free to enter.

The price of the annual America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Lifetime Senior Pass will remain \$80.

For additional information visit: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm>

18th Annual Camas Festival and Retreat to Weippe, ID, May 25-26, 2018

In earlier days the Weippe area was frequented by the Nez Perce Indians, who enjoyed the summer climate and profitable hunting grounds. They erected lodges, fished, hunted, and dug the camas root in the surrounding area. In 1805, Lewis and Clark had their first encounter with the Nez Perce Indians on the Weippe Prairie, not far from the present townsite. For a full schedule of activities visit: <http://weippe.com/>



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



USDA Secretary Announces Infrastructure Improvements for Forest System Trails

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 2018 – Focused work will help agency reduce a maintenance backlog and make trails safer for users.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced the selection of 15 priority areas to help address the more than \$300 million trail maintenance backlog on national forests and grasslands.

Focused trail work in these areas, bolstered by partners and volunteers, is expected to help address needed infrastructure work so that trails managed by USDA Forest Service can be accessed and safely enjoyed by a wide variety of trails enthusiasts. About 25 percent of agency trails fit those standards while the condition of other trails lag behind.

“Our nation’s trails are a vital part of the American landscape and rural economies, and these priority areas are a major first step in USDA’s on-the-ground responsibility to make trails better and safer,” Secretary Perdue said. “The trail maintenance backlog was years in the making with a combination of factors contributing to the problem, including an outdated funding mechanism that routinely borrows money from programs, such as trails, to combat ongoing wildfires.

“This borrowing from within the agency interferes with other vital work, including ensuring that our more than 158,000 miles of well-loved trails provide access to public lands, do not harm natural resources, and, most importantly, provide safe passage for our users.”

This year the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Systems Act which established America’s system of national scenic, historic, and recreation trails. A year focused on trails presents a pivotal opportunity for the Forest Service and partners to lead a shift toward a system of sustainable trails that are maintained through even broader shared stewardship. The priority areas focus on trails that meet the requirements of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act of 2016), which calls for the designation of up to 15 high priority areas where a lack of maintenance has led to reduced access to public land, increased risk of harm to natural resources, public safety hazards, impassable trails, or increased future trail maintenance costs. The act also requires the Forest Service to “significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in trail maintenance” and to aim to double trail maintenance accomplished by volunteers and partners.

Shared stewardship to achieve on-the-ground results has long been core to Forest Service’s approach to trail maintenance, as demonstrated by partner groups such as the Pacific Crest Trail Association and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

“Our communities, volunteers, and partners know that trails play an important role in the health of local economies and of millions of people nationwide, which means the enormity of our trail maintenance backlog must be adequately addressed now,” said USDA Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke. “The agency has a commitment to be a good neighbor, recognizing that people and communities rely on these trails to connect with each other and with nature.”

Each year, more than 84 million people get outside to explore, exercise, and play on trails across national forests and grasslands and visits to these places help to generate 143,000 jobs annually through the recreation economy and more than \$9 million in visitor spending.

The 15 national trail maintenance priority areas encompass large areas of land and each have committed partners to help get the work accomplished. The areas are:

- Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and Adjacent Lands, Montana
- Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington
- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and Eagle Cap Wilderness, Idaho and Oregon: This area includes portions of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail
- Central Idaho Wilderness Complex, Idaho and Montana
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico
- Wyoming Forest Gateway Communities
- Northern California Wilderness, Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps
- Angeles National Forest, California
- Greater Prescott Trail System, Arizona
- Sedona Red Rock Ranger District Trail System, Coconino National Forest, Arizona
- Colorado Fourteeners
- Superior National Forest, Minnesota
- White Mountain National Forest Partner Complex, Maine and New Hampshire
- Southern Appalachians Capacity Enhancement Model, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia
- Iditarod National Historic Trail Southern Trek, Alaska



Discovery Agent Missions Encourage Active, Outdoor, Learning

Your mission, should you choose to accept it... familiar words from the Mission Impossible franchise now have the opportunity to resonate with a new generation through Agents of Discovery (www.agentsofdiscovery.com), an educational mobile gaming platform that uses augmented reality to get youth outdoors, active, and learning.

This opportunity comes to the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NPNHT and local communities through the Conservation Education program at the USDA Forest Service Washington Office, which has invested in having the platform available to over 50 sites across the country. The effort is designed to get kids and families outdoors, moving, and learning, but also to encourage Forest Service staff and partners to explore digital methods interpretation that interest and engage young people.



NPNHT Administrator, Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, and partner Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust (BRCHT) acted quickly to secure the opportunity for the Missoula/Bitterroot corridor to have six Missions! Under development now, the Missions are scheduled to be active early this summer. Missions will be hosted at Travelers' Rest State Park, Lolo, MT, and River Park in Hamilton, MT. The team of partners is working with the Corvallis School District and Stevensville Main Street to develop Missions there and the team would like to see a Mission in Darby. The Bitterroot National Forest Heritage Program is also working to identify a site for a Mission.

"Our local partners are excited about this opportunity and new partners are coming on board to help with this effort. It's a great tool to focus energy on our National Trails in the 50th Anniversary year," says Broncheau-McFarland. "River Park will focus on the NPNHT story and Travelers' Rest is perfect to explore the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT). We're working to identify a site to interpret the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (IAGFNT). With six missions, we'll now have the opportunity to work in other areas as well."



"Missions can be changed as often as desired, which is great! We will be able to cover many important subjects and keep kids and families coming back and back to explore and learn," Kristine Komar, BRCHT. Each mission will typically take 20-30 minutes to complete.

The program has been funded for three years. The Agents of Discovery app can be downloaded at iTunes and Google Play. To give you a little something to get excited about, here are the Agents (mission guides) for the three missions that will focus on National Trails:

Agent 'iceyeye (Nez Perce for Coyote, NPNHT, *pictured above*)

Agent Seaman (LCNHT, *pictured above*)

Agent Woolly Mammoth Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (IAGFNT, *pictured above*)

Kristine Komar, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust

Montana Scenic Historic Byway at Lost Trail Pass

Through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT), the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust (BRCHT) has completed a feasibility assessment for a Montana Scenic-Historic Byway. According to the guidelines for the program, the route of a Byway cannot front any private land so the approximately 10 mile route would stretch south from Lost Trail Hot Springs to Lost Trail Pass on US Highway 93 and then turn east for a few miles along Montana Highway 43 toward Wisdom, MT.



This route possesses a superior level of scenic quality and represents a millennia old travel way. The working concept for the Scenic-Historic Byway is to help travelers along the route better understand what made it preferred and well used and how, when, and why the route was used by indigenous people. Three tribes with roots in the area-the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes -have heritage attachment to this well-established route and stories of its use as a traditional way to buffalo traveled by local tribes as well as other Plateau peoples from farther west.

The proposed route is not only rich in scenic and historic quality, it also has several outstanding developed recreation sites and trailheads, including the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Trailhead to Trail Creek (also Captain William Clark's 1806 return route), Gordon Reese Cabin, the Gibbons Pass Interpretive Site, and the May Creek Campground. Several wayside signs can be found at turnouts that interpret wildlife, the landscape, and the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails.

The assessment determined that the feasibility for a Montana Scenic-Historic Byway is high. Stand by for more updates on the next phases of work which includes engaging tribal partners (each informally agreed it would be an interesting concept to pursue), development of a byway management plan, as well as agreeing on a name and identity for the byway.

Kristine Komar, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



The Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) will be offering two scholarships to Native American students (\$500 each) that will be awarded at the 27th Annual Nez Perce Tamkaliks Celebration in Wallowa, OR, in July. You do not need to be present to win. The funds will be used for the upcoming fall semester at your college.

and will occur from August 3-11.

Preliminary ideas are being discussed by the Board of Directors regarding the creation of a Memorial near Ft. Leavenworth (similar in meaning to Tonkawa) to commemorate the Nez Perce incarceration from 1877-1885. Suitable sites are being examined, as are design concepts.

Ongoing fundraising efforts for the Wallowa Homelands Basketball Court construction. Donations can be made via PayPal on the [NPTF website](#).

The NPTF will be represented at the upcoming National Trails Conference in Vancouver, WA, in October. Presentations by Jim Zimmerman (Lt. C.E.S. Wood), and Charlie Moses, Jr. (Nez Perce elder), as well as an information table and educational materials.

NPTF board member Jim Zimmerman (*photo right*) attended the annual Hike the Hill event in Washington DC in February, where he met with legislators and representative s from federal agencies.

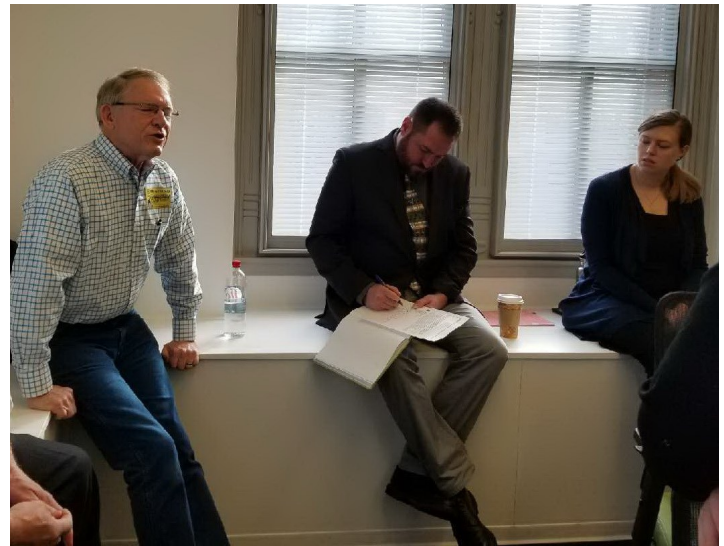
Volunteers are needed to research grant opportunities and submittals.

NPTF president, Karen Heagen, visited with the route planners at Adventure Cycling in Missoula a few months ago to encourage them to develop and name a new long-distance bicycling route which would trace the 1877 NPNHT. The plan is for a strictly hard road route that would likely follow the existing auto tour route. Exceptions might be made whenever road safety conditions were a factor. That is what the planners at Adventure Cycling do and then they promote the route through their massive bike route program.

Adventure Cycling has done this for many historical routes including the Lewis and Clark, Underground Railroad, and many others. They produce highly detailed maps for bicyclists which show safe routes including recommendations where to camp, local bicycle repair shops, interesting historical facts, etc.

Hopefully, a fully vetted Nez Perce bicycle route will also open opportunities for Native Peoples because these routes attract international attention and there is always a need for bike tour guides. Adventure Cycling also offers training workshops to certify bike tour guides and persons taking advantage of this source could develop a decent business for themselves, not to mention getting into and staying in tremendous personal condition. Please visit www.NezPerceTrail.net for more information on any of the programs mentioned.

Karen Heagen, President, and Matt Nowak Membership Chairman



L-R: Jim Zimmerman, NPTF, Ryan Domsalla, NPNHT, Christina Milo, USDA Forest Service





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

Spring is now upon us and everyone is looking forward to getting out and tackling a number of projects in preparation for the busy summer season. Before we find out what new and exciting events there will be let's take a quick look at what has happened over the last few months.

2018 marks the centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and in commemoration of this the National Geographic Society, Audubon Society, and other prominent birding groups have identified 2018 as the "Year of the Bird". The park is also celebrating this milestone by holding several "Year of the Bird" events throughout 2018. In January the park participated in the "Great Backyard Bird Count," which was open to the public and had volunteers identify and count the birds in our area. Eamon Harrity, a graduate student at the University of Idaho, presented a program in February on "The Majestic Great Blue Heron." This March Kamiah Students for Success and Lapwai Boys and Girls Club volunteered to assist Park staff with building and painting bird houses designed specifically for blue birds (*photo right*). We would like to thank our 30 volunteers who helped with this project and let everyone know you will be able to see the bird houses in the wild as they are placed at various park sites.

Keeping in line with the "Year of the Bird" theme a new temporary exhibit was unveiled in late February. The exhibit titled "The Birds and the Beads" highlights the role of birds in Nez Perce culture. It includes eagle feather headdresses to chicken feather plumes and addresses how birds have continuously remained symbolically and culturally important to the Nez Perce. The exhibit will be on display through December of this year.

There were two other guest speakers this winter. Garry Bush and John Fisher from The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Idaho Chapter presented talks in February and March. Their topics "Pomp Reminisces About his Mother Sacajawea" and "The Food of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery" provided a unique opportunity to learn about some interesting topics about the Corps of Discovery and were both well received by visitors. Also, on April 21, Nakia Williamson and Steve Grafe spoke on the representations and significance of birds in Nez Perce and Plateau Material Culture.

There are several upcoming events that you are invited to this spring. On May 19, the Park will host a Culture Day event and on June 2 and 16, Gayle Bear will provide cultural demonstrations on weaving at the visitor center. Keep an eye out for further details!

The visitor center is open daily and all programs, events, and presentations are free. For information regarding future events please contact the Park at (208) 843-7009.

Brett Spaulding, Supervisory Park Ranger, Nez Perce National Historical Park

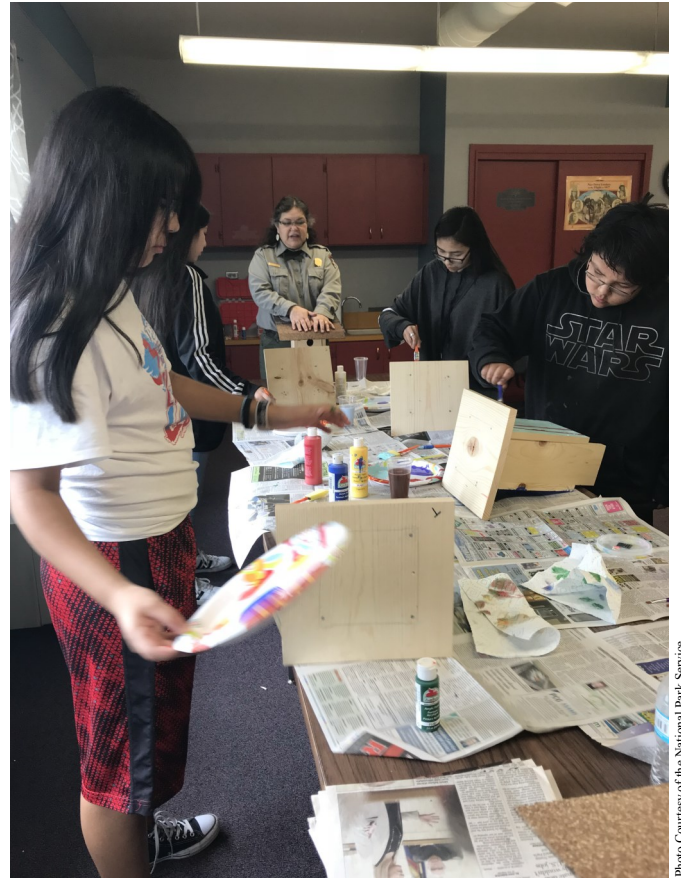


Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

Word on the street is that spring has sprung, but you wouldn't know it at the Big Hole. Regardless of the snow that persisted through much of April, the ground squirrels have come out of hibernation and park staff are preparing for the upcoming summer season. Our 9th annual Coyote Camp will be hosted May 21-25 this year. Coyote Camp is the battlefield's premier education program for school children, with approximately 1,000 students attending each year. Students spend 5 hours rotating through a variety of activities that introduce them to Nez Perce culture, the 1877 War and Flight of the Nez Perce, and the Battle of the Big Hole.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Big Hole National Battlefield's visitor center began its summer hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, 2018. Trails and picnic areas remain open sunrise to sunset daily year round. The road to the lower lot will open to vehicles when weather permits. Details for the upcoming summer events listed below can be found on the Park website at www.nps.gov/biho.

The 2018 Summer Speaker Series presentations will take place each weekend from July 7 through August 12.

- July 7 & 8: Priscilla Arthur - Beadwork
- July 14 & 15: Silas Whitman - Natural Resource Uses of the Nez Perce and Leroy Seth - Tribal Dancing and Regalia
- July 21 & 22: Darrell Wheeler - Events of 1877
- July 28 & 29: Naomi Wood - Stick game
- August 4 & 5: Robert Brown - Major Charles Rawn
- August 11 & 12: Mike Penney and Nez Perce Nation Drum - Drum and Song

The annual commemoration of the battle will be held on Saturday, August 11, beginning at 10 a.m. Details about this event can be found on the calendar of events on the Park website.

Ranger guided programs and battlefield tours will be held each weekend, and also on weekdays when staffing levels allow June 16 through September 30. Program specifics are available on the ranger programs page of the Park website.

This spring we are excited to bring on five volunteers-in-parks (VIPs), one intern through the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and one seasonal park ranger to assist with interpretive programming through the summer and fall. We will also bring on four teenagers as members of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and at least one seasonal maintenance staff member.

Stop by if you get a chance.

Rebekah Jones, Lead Park Ranger, Big Hole National Battlefield





News From the Forest Service: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

Snowpack continued to hold strong at Lolo Pass through April. With an average of 81 inches at Lolo Pass throughout the 2017-2018 season, winter enthusiasts had an extended opportunity to enjoy snow sports on their National Forest lands.

To encourage interest in the outdoors and develop winter skill proficiency, Lolo Pass hosted winter education programs for 10 school groups, ranging in age from kindergarten to high school. Lessons focused on winter wildlife adaptations, snowshoeing, skiing and avalanche safety, using interactive methods, and hands-on activities. One favorite activity engages students in a simulated avalanche rescue where they practice using transceivers to search for a buried beacon in the avalanche beacon park.

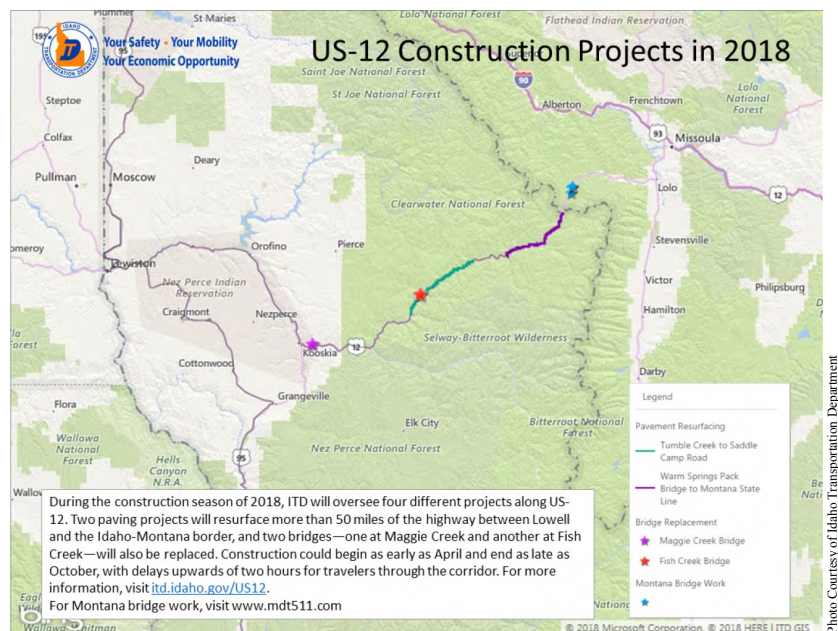
It appears that even the wildlife are partial to the Idaho/Montana rest area at Lolo Pass. Frequent snowfall at the pass offers the perfect canvas for observing wildlife tracks and sign. Noteworthy wildlife sightings this winter included a plethora of rabbit and fox tracks around the buildings, as well as bobcat scat in front of the visitor center bathroom! Visitors also reported a few mountain lion sightings on the groomed ski trails.

With spring on the way, the Visitor Center is transitioning programming as well. March 31, 2018, was the last day that winter recreational use permits were required at the pass. The visitor center will continue to operate on winter hours through May and will resume 7 day a week coverage in June, with a slate of new summer programs celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. As part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act the staff at Lolo Pass along with our partners at [Discover Your Northwest](#) will be hosting a series of Native Artists in Residence. The artists will spend several days at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center working on their craft and will also have items available for sale for visitors to purchase. The first artist is being scheduled for late June, watch the NPNHT website for details. From July 6-8, Gayle Bear and her granddaughter Jordanna Bear, members of the Nez Perce Tribe, will be creating Corn husk artwork, beading, and possibly basket making. From August 11-13, Jenny Williams, member of the Nez Perce Tribe, will demonstrate traditional weaving. Artists will be working on their craft from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PDT on the days listed. Please take the time to visit the pass and see these artists at work. Also, we are still looking for people to serve as alternates should one of the artists need to cancel for personal reasons. If you are a native artist who would like to be placed on the list of alternates please contact Colleen Mathisen at 208-942-3113 or colleen.mathisen@discovernw.org.

The annual Camas bloom at Packer Meadows will probably occur sometime in mid to late June. For additional information watch the NPNHT website and the Lolo Pass Discover Your Northwest Facebook page.

The annual Mountain-to-Meadow Run will take place on Saturday June 30, 2018. For additional information visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MT/Lolo/MountaintoMeadow>

Work to construct nearly \$17 million in infrastructure and safety improvements on U.S. Highway 12 in north-central Idaho began on April 16, 2018. Work is scheduled to be completed in October 2018. Click the image on the above for more details about this project.



Danna Scholz
Lolo Pass Visitor Center
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

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Spring Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



St. Mary's Mission, Stevensville, MT
Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Camas at Packer Meadows, ID
Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Dug Bar, Hells Canyon, OR
Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Aurora Borealis at Upper Geyser Basin,
Yellowstone, NP, WY
Neal Herbert, National Park Service photo



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