



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Frequently Asked Questions

Completed in response to provisions of the National Trails System Act (NTSA), the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) **1990 Comprehensive Plan (CP)**, has guided the USDA Forest Service (FS) in managing the approximately 1,170-mile Trail for 30 years. Congress authorized the NPNHT in 1986 to commemorate the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. The Trail, including sites, auto tours, and certified sites across a mix of federal, state, local, and tribal jurisdictions along with FS regions, in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Wyoming, and Montana.

The CP Revision will provide programmatic strategic direction for administration and management of the Trail.

Who is responsible for the Trail CP?

The FS is designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to administrate the NPNHT. The Chief of the FS has delegated the administrative and management authority to the Regional Forester (RF) in the Northern Region, Leanne Marten. The RF has further assigned day-to-day duties to the Trail Administrator, Sandra Broncheau-McFarland. The FS cooperates with the following agencies and governments:

- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- Affected Tribes
- State and Local Governments

Why Revise? What is different from the 1990 CP?

The **NTSA** has been amended several times since the 1990 NPNHT CP was completed. Within the past decade, two independent interagency reviews of the 1990 NPNHT CP determined the Plan needs to be revised and updated to meet NTSA requirements. These include:

- Nature and Purposes statement addresses why the NPNHT is important and for what purposes it should be managed. Future administration and management of the NPNHT must be consistent with the nature and purposes for which it was designated (Final CP, Page 57).
- Objectives and Practices to be followed in management of the NPNHT. Specifically required by the NTSA, these will be best management practices for future management of the Trail (Final CP, Pages 57-65).
- Land acquisition (Final CP, Pages 63, 74-76 and Appendix E pages 137-142).
- Carrying capacity for the Trail. The NTSA requires federal agencies to determine a carrying or user capacity for the Trail to provide for the conservation and enjoyment of all significant resources along the Trail (Final CP, Pages 66-69).
- Identify High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Historic Route Segments associated with the NPNHT (Final CP, Appendix B Pages 101-110).
- Cooperative agreement and model agreements (Final CP, Pages 78-79 and Appendix D Pages 131-135).





Will the CP Revision alter other Land Management Plans (Forest Plans, National Park Service General Management Plans and Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans)?

The revised CP does not amend existing plans, authorize site-specific projects or activities, obligate funds, or initiate activities that commit Federal Agencies, with jurisdiction, to take specific actions.

Was the Right of Way (ROW) updated in the revised CP?

No. Unit permanent ROW can be identified and vetted through a process as described in the NTSA, the interim ROW remains reflected in the 1990 CP.

Will the CP Revision require NEPA?

NEPA will only be completed for Carrying Capacity as the CP will largely be a programmatic document.

Who is invited to participate?

All interested stakeholders and communities, for whom the Trail represents particular values related to heritage and remembrance. As mandated by law, Tribal Consultation will first take place prior to public scoping. Spring 2020 Three Public Scoping Meetings will be held along the Trail. Time & Locale TBD.

How can Tribes participate?

Tribes will be contacted in **March, 2020** via letter from the appropriate Forest or Grasslands Supervisor. Tribes will determine how they want to engage in the consultation process. Two Tribal webinars will be held March 18 and April 8, 2020, 1 p.m. MST . ***Please use the following link <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/nph/> On the day of the Webinar if you are unable to connect via the Adobe Connect link please email eric.cobertt@usda.gov and we can provide you with a PDF file of the presentation so you can follow along.***

What may be of interest to Tribes? There are 12 Objectives and Practices. Final CP, Pages 57-65

- Historic Sites and Segments Protection
- Certification of sites
- Trail Design and Maintenance
- Tribal Relations
- Recreation and Tourism
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Interpretation
- Land Use and Access
- Land Acquisition
- Cooperation and Partnership
- Connecting and Side Trails
- Uniform Trail Markers and Registered Trail Symbol Use

