

Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Comprehensive Plan Revision Status - Expanded Timeline

The revised Comprehensive Plan has been completed for all components. The plan will be shared with Tribes, then other agencies and the public to provide an update on the status of the plan. The next phase will be initiating the NEPA analysis for the carrying capacity of the trail. Once that analysis is completed and a decision is made for the carrying capacity, the Comprehensive Plan will be finalized and signed.

Key Messages about the Comprehensive Plan

1. The Comprehensive Plan is a strategic framework for integrated management of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive decision-making tool.
2. The revised Comprehensive Plan does not amend existing Land and Resource Management Plans, authorize site-specific projects or activities, obligate funding, or initiate activities that commit Federal Agencies with jurisdiction to take specific action.
3. Future Land and Resource Management Plans and site-specific project-level decisions will adhere to strategies contained within the Comprehensive Plan.
4. Future decisions will be subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and agency-specific Code of Federal Regulations, policies, and Land and Resource Management Plans.

Brief Timeline

June 2019	Draft Comprehensive Plan is ready for internal NPNHT staff review
March 2020	Share final Comprehensive Plan and EA & FONSI (combined) with Tribes and then Other Agencies
Late March 2020	Share final Comprehensive Plan with Stakeholders and public
Spring 2020	Public Scoping Meetings (3) Time & Locale TBD
Spring 2020	Combined Scoping and Comment period for the EA
Summer 2020	Draft Decision Notice and Objection period
Fall 2020	NEPA analysis (EA) for carrying capacity of the NPNHT
Fall 2020	Final Decision Notice and Final Comprehensive Plan are signed

Expanded Timeline with Objectives and Outcomes

This document describes the phases Comprehensive Plan and associated NEPA with associated objectives and outcomes.

June 2019- Draft version of the Comprehensive Plan is ready for review

The draft revised Comprehensive Plan has been completed for all components except for carrying capacity that require environmental analysis under NEPA.

March- 2020- Distribute the final revised Comprehensive Plan and EA with FONSI (combined) for tribal consultation (120 days)

Objectives

- Conduct government-to-government consultation with tribes.
- Information-sharing and awareness related to the revised plan status and timeline for remaining steps toward finalizing.
- Request and receive feedback from reviewers.
- Update contact lists.

Expected Outcomes

- Tribes are aware of the revision process, the final revised plan, EA & FONSI combined. Feedback is considered and incorporated as applicable, and the level of desired engagement for the remainder of the revision process is identified.
- Feedback on the revised plan, EA will be considered and incorporated as applicable.

Late March 2020- Distribute the final revised Comprehensive Plan, EA and combined FONSI for review by agencies, states, and counties with jurisdiction (45 days).

Objectives

- Information-sharing and awareness related to the revised plan status and timeline for remaining steps toward finalizing.
- Request and receive feedback from reviewers.
- Update contact lists.

Expected Outcomes

- Jurisdictional partners are brought up-to-date with the content of the revised Plan, EA and combined FONSI and remaining steps in the revision process, and any expected roles and responsibilities.
- Feedback on the revised Plan and EA will be considered and incorporated as applicable.

April 2020- Distribute the final revised Comprehensive Plan, EA and combined FONSI to stakeholders and the general public (45 days).

Objectives

- Status update.
- Review the final revised Plan, EA and combined FONSI and the remaining steps and timeframes in the process to a final revised Plan.
- Explain the next steps including the NEPA process.
- Update contact lists.

Audience

- All individuals and organizations who participated in the revision up to this point, such as past commenters and meeting attendees.
- Target specific outreach to stakeholder groups who participated in workshops or other engagement activities to clearly explain the evolution of the analysis and CP from site-specific to strategic.

Expected Outcomes

- Individuals and organizations are aware of the progress made and how their previous input has been incorporated into the final draft revised CP.
- Individuals and organizations understand the next steps and the NEPA process; in particular the opportunity to comment periods and object eligibility requirements.
- Comments on the proposed action are deferred until the official opportunity to comment period.

Spring 2020- Initiate NEPA Process for the carrying capacity analysis.

The NEPA analysis is initiated during this phase, expected to be an EA. Analysis will be focused on determining the carrying capacity for the trail. A purpose and need statement and a proposed action for those components will be drafted for internal and jurisdictional partner review.

Spring 2020- Distribute draft EA for combined scoping/30-day public comment period

The proposed action and some or all NEPA analysis in a draft EA is distributed, and the official “opportunity to comment” period is conducted in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the 36 CFR 218 regulations.

Following the public engagement activities to inform and seek comments from the public, the planning team will conduct content analysis on the comments and move forward with newly identified issues, alternatives, and analysis of effects as directed by the responsible official.

Objectives

- Notify the public of this opportunity to comment and seek public comments on the draft NEPA document.
- Clearly articulate plan components requiring an associated NEPA analysis and decision and focus on solicitation of comments on the purpose and need and proposed action.
- Initiate the official opportunity to comment on the proposed action and draft EA (FSH 1909.15, 36 CFR 220, and 36 CFR 218).
- Explain what kind of feedback we are seeking at this point and how it will be used.

- Explain objection eligibility requirements.

Expected Outcomes

- Public comment report and response to comments.
- Draft decision document and Final NEPA document.

Summer 2020- Publish draft decision notice and final NEPA document for pre-decisional administrative review period (objection period).

The required documents will be published and the objection period conducted according to 36 CFR 218. This phase is the last step in the NEPA process associated with revising the CP.

Objectives

- Inform the general public that the draft decision and final NEPA document are completed and the process is entering the final steps.
- Conduct required pre-decisional administrative review process which includes the objection filing and resolution periods.
- Prepare final documents and notify the public as required.

Expected Outcomes

- Objection resolutions.
- Documents revised as appropriate.

Fall 2020- Publish the final Decision Notice and the final Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

- The NEPA decision and the revised Comprehensive Plan are final.
- Expectations for implementing the Plan.
- Opportunities for continued engagement in the management of the NPNHT.

Expected Outcomes

- Final decision document and final NEPA document.
- Final revised CP.