



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

## *Progress Report*

Spring 2020

### Administrator’s Corner

These past weeks have been a great challenge for all of us—but we are trying to adapt. The speed with which the coronavirus pandemic has entered our lives is unnerving, but we will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever. During uncertain times like these, it is uplifting to reflect on our shared successes and progress as a reminder of all we can accomplish together.

I have enjoyed finding more opportunities to pass along family histories to our grandchildren. Time together at home is a time to tell stories and a time to listen to them. During this time, we encourage you to stay home and enjoy a slower pace of life however you can — whether that’s settling in with board games, kicking back on the patio with a good book, or simply dreaming about and planning your next Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Adventure. The digital resources that are available from our website feature an annotated bibliography, and Wildlife and People Pages to our coloring and activity, videos, archived quotes, and other learning opportunities, including virtual tours.

We are here online for you to enjoy. Whether you’re looking to learn something new or just want a bit of entertainment, visit us online to learn more about our projects—past, present, and future!

We are continuing to inspire and promote improvement of teaching and learning about the NPNHT by providing educational materials and a resource for both teachers and learners that incorporate new animal coloring pages, fun critter facts, more comprehensive histories, and accurate information to enlighten and inform teaching and learning about the NPNHT.

We saluted our partners and volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 19-25, 2020. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service. We are so proud of our partners who have reached out with inspiring ideas on how to educate and entertain your kids at home while staying at home. The Alvin Josephy Center for Arts and History, Fish Trap, and Confluence, to name a few, have developed special live online events and dynamic online experiences. We want to shine a light on the people that inspire us to serve by recognizing, thanking, and honoring volunteers who lend their time, talent, and voice to make a difference for the NPNHT.

Have you heard of a project or initiative we should know about? Are you interested in writing about a virtual exhibition? Do you want a platform to share your story? Send us a note!

Remember that gratitude and acts of kindness are medicine for the mind and spirit. When it’s time, and when you’re ready to travel and experience your trail and auto tour adventure, we’ll be right here waiting to welcome you.

These are strange, frustrating, and precarious times. As we all navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, we want you to know we are thinking of you. We appreciate you and wish you and your family good health.

I would like to share a few words from the indefatigable Eleanor Roosevelt, who guided Americans through the Great Depression and World War II, saying we need to “accept whatever comes, and the only important thing is that you meet it with courage and with the best that you have to give.”

We value you and wish you comfort, health and strength as we navigate these difficult, uncertain times. We know we will see you soon.

*Sandra Broncheau-McFarland*, Administrator, NPNHT



Nez Perce  
National Historic Trail

May  
2020



## Agent Anna, Fire Prevention Chipmunk Leads Adventure on a New Agents of Discovery Mission



The franchise of Agents of Discovery missions hosted by the The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) has grown to five. Current missions, all in the Bitterroot Valley and developed last season, can be found at Travelers Rest State Park, Lolo; St. Mary's Mission, Stevensville; River Park in Hamilton; and Lake Como in the Darby area. The new mission is located at the Bass Creek Nature Trail within the Bass Creek Recreation Area (*photo below*) on the Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, and along the NPNHT Auto Tour Route between Florence, MT, and Stevensville, MT.

“This is a high use area for our district and easy to access so it’s a great location for a mission,” says District Ranger Steve Brown. “Families staying at the Larry Creek Group Site or the Charles Waters Campground will have a great educational opportunity for their children. It’s a very popular area for hikers as well, great country to explore and enjoy, so we expect the app to be well used.”

Agent Anna, Fire Prevention Chipmunk, was specially designed for the Bass Creek Mission. There are many chipmunks, as well as other wildlife, to be seen in the area and while on the mission. And chipmunks are active and curious--just like young agents playing the mission, and encouraging, so she makes an appropriate guide and mission leader. Anna’s name is taken from the real live Fire Prevention Officer on the Forest, Anna Bateson. “It’s an honor to have the agent for this mission named after me. I have really enjoyed working on this project. The Agents of Discovery app is going to fit so nicely into the other education programs we offer and I look forward to working side by side with my namesake helping kids learn more about the area, especially fire ecology and fire prevention,” says Anna. Also instrumental in creating the Bass Creek Nature Trail is Tim Peterson, a tech savvy volunteer. “I enjoy spending time creating opportunities for young people to experience the outdoors and learn about natural resources. I’m pleased to be part of this great team effort.”

NPNHT Administrator, Sandra Broncheau-McFarland: “The NPNHT is delighted to see the Agents of Discovery program growing on the Bitterroot National Forest. I know the team would be happy to share the story of how they got their project of many partners up and running and lend a hand to anyone interested in using the Agents of Discovery app on their landscape. Adding digital interpretation is such a great way to provide services to visitors. And the more they learn, the better stewards they will be to our public lands.”

To play [Agents of Discovery](#) Bitterroot missions, download the FREE app from the App Store or Google Play. The app will guide you to all five. Please note that things work best when you download the app before you leave home or where you have highspeed access.



U.S. Forest Service photos

Kristine Komar, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, NPNHT Partner and Project Coordinator for Agents of Discovery in the Bitterroot



FLASHBACK: This story was published in the Jan. 13, 1948, Lewiston Tribune; reprinted with permission

## ‘Chief Joseph Trail’ Winning Name For Route

It is Chief Joseph Trail by a large majority, secretaries of Lewiston and Clarkston chambers of commerce were informed yesterday in a letter from A. Deasley, chairman of the Tri State road committee, Joseph, OR.

At request of the Joseph chamber the Lewiston chamber assisted the Clarkston chamber in conducting a contest for an official name for the highway, Reginald Ouellette, secretary-manager of the Lewiston organization, said yesterday. The road, improved last year, has been known informally as the Tri-State highway, Blue Mountain highway and by some other designations.

“It now is up to local groups to bring pressure on their state highway commissions to have the name confirmed,” Deasley wrote. “We hope to have dedication ceremonies for the route some time this year.”



Motoring in Central Idaho: Photo FS99-4851 United States Forest Service Northern Region Archives Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, University of Montana.

The Oregon highway department has authorized \$50,000 for surfacing, oiling and putting guard rails on the Oregon portion of the route, he said.

### Old Nez Perce Route

The highway follows the route used by the Nez Perce Indians, of whom Joseph was one of the greatest chiefs, to travel from their Wallowa valley into Idaho. Archie Phinney, superintendent of the Nez Perce, reservation at Lapwai and himself a member of the tribe, expressed pleasure at the public choice of the name, Ouellette said yesterday.

Through the Clarkston and Lewiston chambers 148 entries were received in the contest and 117 favored the name Chief Joseph Trail, Deasley wrote. Spokane was unanimous in selecting the name. The road committee of the Joseph chamber received and tallied all entries after they were forwarded from the other organizations and announced the final choice.

### Others Favor Name

In direct letters to the Joseph committee Dan Taylor and T. W. Campbell, both of Lewiston, also favored the name chosen. At Orofino C. E. Weston explained the contest to a group of 36 fifth grade children who also voted for the chosen name. Weston’s father, C. R. Weston, lived at Milton at the time of Chief Joseph’s historic campaign and retreat and was one of the government scouts assigned to Indian war duty. At Wallowa, OR, the vote was for Nez Perce Trail with Chief Joseph Trail second, Deasley pointed out. However, he wrote, Nez Perce Trail is the name already given highway 10 from Idaho to Montana and therefore ineligible.

From Asotin Lena Wormell Ramsdell suggested the name Hi-Yu highway, supporting her suggestion with poetry. Other names suggested were Chief Joseph’s Paradise Trail, Chief Joseph Crown highway, Scenic Sylvan highway and Switzerland Trail.



## Appaloosa Horse Club Chief Joseph Trail Ride Cancelled

The Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Chief Joseph Trail Ride, originally set to take place August 3 – 7, 2020. This would have been the 56th consecutive year the historical event has been held.

Due to COVID-19, the United States Forest Service (USFS) is unable to issue recreational permits, hindering the ability for ApHC trail leaders to access trails and establish a ride route. Trail maintenance has also been halted for the time being, which would support a safe ride for members, organizers, and their Appaloosas.

“As a Board, this was one of the most difficult decisions we’ve ever had to make,” said ApHC President Ken Johnson. “But our hands were tied by circumstances out of our control. That said, I’m confident that the historic Chief Joseph Trail Ride will be back next year better than ever, with even greater participation.”

The uncertainty of this situation and lack of a set timeline for when USFS operations will return to normal have required the ApHC to make this decision. In order for the Appaloosa Horse Club to successfully hold a safe and enjoyable ride, the time for proper preparation is not feasible this year.

While the situation is unfortunate, the Appaloosa Horse Club and its leaders encourage Chief Joseph riders and participants to look forward to next year when this special tradition can be continued. The fourth leg of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride over Lolo pass will now be ridden in 2021. Meanwhile, ApHC encourages members to spend quality time with their Appaloosa and consider enrolling in the Saddle Log program where awards are earned for their time spent in the saddle.

For additional information on the Chief Joseph Trail Ride and further updates that become available in the following months, please visit <https://www.appaloosa.com/trail/ChiefJoseph.htm>.

The Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) was established in 1938 with a mission of preserving, promoting, and enhancing the Appaloosa breed. The ApHC has since registered more than 700,000 Appaloosas, which are known for their distinctive color, intelligence, and even temperament. True to their reputation as an extremely versatile breed, Appaloosas can be found in nearly every discipline, including racing, endurance riding, and serving as reliable family horses. The international breed registry is headquartered in Moscow, ID, the heart of the Palouse region—the Appaloosa breed’s namesake and point of origin.



### Comprehensive Plan (CP) Revision Update:

The final draft of the revised NPNHT Comprehensive Plan (CP) has been completed for all components. The final draft CP, Environmental Assessment (EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be shared with Tribes, and then other agencies and the public to provide an update on the status of the CP. The next phase will be initiating the NEPA analysis for the carrying capacity of the Trail. Because of the recent developments related to Covid-19 the decision has been made to pause the consultation due to inability to reach out effectively to tribal leaders/staff.



## Tread Lightly! at a Distance

Adapt the T.R.E.A.D. Principles for social distancing outdoors to align with the recommendations from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>) to help slow the spread of the disease and maintain physical and emotional health. Please help us keep the outdoors and enthusiasts healthy by following these easy guidelines.

**T – Travel responsibly.** Stay close to home and utilize less popular trails. If parking lots and trail heads are crowded, look for alternatives. If visiting a park or trail, remember to stay on designated routes.

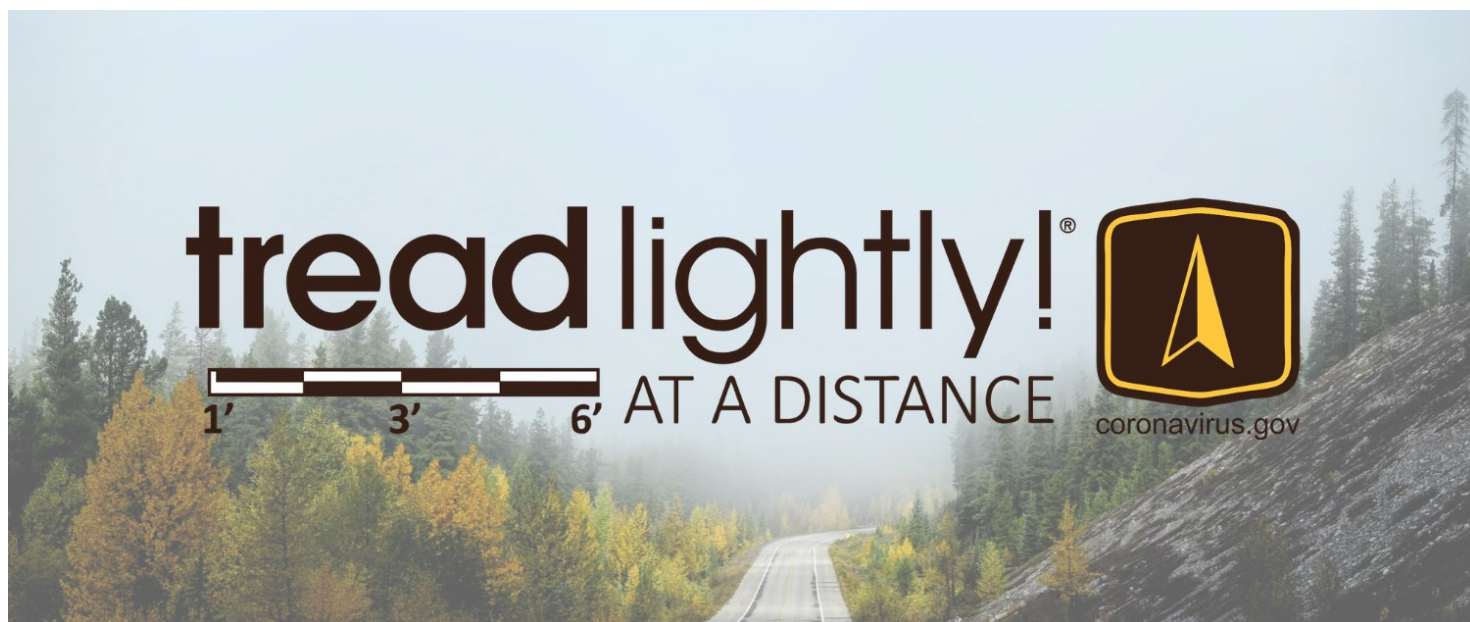
**R – Respect the rights of others** – Maintain a safe distance (6 feet minimum) from other recreationists. If you are feeling sick, stay home. Remember to keep hands clean. Keep sanitizer available in your vehicle or on your person. Avoid touching your face during and after being in public spaces.

**E – Educate yourself** – Make sure your facilities are open before you head out and check for any travel restrictions. Follow local, state, and Federal guidelines at <https://www.usa.gov/state-health> regarding restrictions on group sizes.

**A – Avoid sensitive areas** – Keep members of local communities safe and healthy by avoiding places that are heavily affected by the virus or could be easily overwhelmed by medical emergencies.

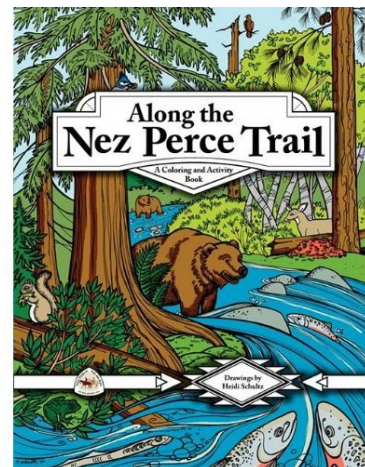
**D – Do your part** – Make sure to pack out what you pack in to keep places healthy and accessible for other users.

<https://www.treadlightly.org/tread-lightly-at-a-distance/>



### Excellent Learning Activity for Homebound Kids!

Take a Virtual Trip on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) via [Google Earth](#). Parents can download teaching and learning tools from our Learning Center. Get those crayons out and Color the Trail! Everyone, young and old, can color their way through this series of [activity books](#) while learning about plants, animals, the Nez Perce people, and other historic events along the NPNHT. For more information please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/>



## Late Upper Paleolithic Occupation at Cooper's Ferry, Idaho

Until recently, the most likely hypothesis to explain the arrival of the first humans in the heart of North America postulated that these early travelers would have used, from Alaska, a corridor that opened up 14,800 years ago between the Cordilleran and the Laurentide ice sheets. Yet the work of a team of archaeologists from the United States and Canada on Cooper's Ferry site, located in a fold of the Salmon River in western Idaho, is forcing a reassessment of this scenario.

Indeed, how could the existence of stone tools and bone fragments whose age is estimated at between 16,560 and 15,280 years old – that is to say from a half to two millennia before the corridor opening – be interpreted? The researchers claim that the presence of these objects best argues in favor of a route along the Pacific shoreline. The travelers would have followed the coast to the mouth of the Columbia River, on the border of the present states of Washington and Oregon; thanks to this river, to which the Salmon River is indirectly connected, they would have penetrated deeply into the continent. While the authors of the study admit that the glacial corridor may have been used very early to populate the continent, they doubt however that it represents the original path of territorial occupation.

*This short summary of the article titled Late Upper Paleolithic occupation at Cooper's Ferry, Idaho, USA, ~16,000 years ago (Davis et al., Science 365, 891–897 (2019)) was published in French in the Spring 2020 issue of Nature sauvage No 47, p10 (naturesauvage.ca)*



All of these photographs were taken at the Coopers Ferry site in 2011.  
By Roger Peterson, US Forest Service





## 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.

## COVID-19 Safety Messages

We are practicing an abundance of caution to help #flattenthecurve. We follow the guidance of our agency as well as local, county, state, and federal leaders and medical professionals.



It's getting pretty outside so please #RecreateResponsibly. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19.

Nationwide, the vast majority of National Forest System lands remain open for public use. However, based on consultation with local governments and public health agencies, temporary area closures may be enacted in some local situations. For these situations, the Forest Service works to align agency operations to support CDC guidance and state and local government orders for

residents to stay home, stay safe and save lives. These difficult decisions are not taken lightly and consider current risks to public health, the national effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, and local community desire to access their public lands. Shutting access to recreational sites or areas is a particularly difficult decision for the Forest Service, and the agency is looking forward to the day when these sites can safely reopen and are once again filled with people enjoying their public lands.

Trails and trailheads remain open. Please remember to avoid congregating at trailheads and/or parking areas and refrain from gathering in groups of 10 or more.

For more information and updates please visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/covid19-updates>  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/going-outdoors-while-social-distancing>



## UPCOMING Events: STAY TUNED



Numerous events have been cancelled or postponed due to the current Public Health Emergency. Please follow us on Twitter @npnht or watch for additional updates on our website. Be well and be safe!!



# News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



As with many other non-profit organizations, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) has been forced to limit our activities due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Many of our nation's non-profits rely on the financial generosity of their members and philanthropists to ensure that they can continue to fulfill their mission. Unfortunately, it has been predicted that the worldwide pandemic may cause many non-profits across the country to cease operation permanently.

Even with the current crisis that faces us, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation Board of Directors is focused on a couple of key goals that can have a long-lasting impact on the future of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). As previously reported, the Foundation is pursuing two specific objectives for 2020. The Foundation is moving forward to work with U.S. House and Senate members in order to extend and add additional routes to the present Congressionally designated NPNHT.

The routes that we hope to add would include the full exile route from Bears Paw to Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and then to Baxter Springs, KS, and on to Oklahoma. The extension would include the relocation route in Oklahoma as well as the travel route from Arkansas City, KS, back to the northwest. Another route of importance that we would like to add to the National Trail would be the Chief White Bird escape route to Canada. Our second project involves the placement of a commemorative monument honoring the Nez Perce captives to be located in downtown Leavenworth, KS. The NPTF Board has already made a full presentation of the proposed project to the city officials and Kansas congressional and state legislative staff. The proposals were received enthusiastically. Both of our preliminary proposals have been submitted to a representative of the Nez Perce Tribe. We have been informed that a formal detailed presentation would be essential in order to obtain support and approval by the Tribe. Again, due to the nation wide shut down, it's difficult to determine when we might be able to make an in-person presentation to the Nez Perce Tribe governing body.

The annual NPTF Board of Directors meeting usually takes place in July during the Tamkaliks Celebration at Wallowa, OR, and upon the conclusion of the celebration, the NPTF Summer Educational Tour begins. This highly regarded annual tour has been conducted by Duane Heglie and Karen Heagen. Due to the worldwide pandemic, and after careful consideration, the NPTF will not be conducting its Summer Educational Trail Tour this year.

This trip was the culmination of the Tamkaliks Celebration and Pow Wow in the Wallowa Homelands, and gave the NPTF an opportunity to share the NPNHT with those students and guests who wanted to have the actual experience of walking in the footsteps of the fleeing Nez Perce in 1877. Hopefully, 2021 will mark the continuation of this fantastic adventure.

One of the highlights of last year's Trail Trip was a side trip to Mount Idaho (near Grangeville) where volunteers and U.S. Army forces created a headquarters in 1877. After the initial battle at White Bird, General Howard arrived with additional troops. This "fort" created a safe haven and last defense for the nearby settlers. Fortunately, Mount Idaho was never attacked. The property is still owned by the Brown family, descendants of L.P. Brown who was a prominent businessman and hotel owner. *(photo right, Duane Heglie).*

The Nez Perce POW's return route from Indian Territory to the Pacific Northwest is the primary research project of Karen Heagen this year. Official documents confirm that most of Joseph's Band chose to return with him via railroad to Ft. Spokane, WA, and eventually to Nespelem. A separate group chose to return to the reservation at Lapwai, via Wallula, Ft. Walla Walla, Riparia, WA, and Lewiston, ID, under the supervision of Agent Monteith. This split cemented the already present cultural divisions between the treaty/non-treaty bands, and Christian/non-Christian members.

If the pandemic has you restricted to home for a considerable amount of time, it might be a great time to catch up on your reading of any number of books that have been written about the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. In the meantime, be careful and stay safe!

Jim Zimmerman, NPTF President and Karen Heagen, NPTF Historic Research Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Karen Heagen NPTF







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

This past winter, Nez Perce National Historical Park invited visitors to escape the cold and learn about local history at the park's winter speaker series. Lin Tull Cannell kicked off the series with a talk about frontiersman and fur trapper William Craig. Chris

Schlect recounted the time Henry Spalding spent amongst the Nez Perce. Thank you to our speakers and everyone who attended these talks. We look forward to more speakers in the future. *(photo right)*



Photos Courtesy of the National Park Service



We are excited to welcome many new faces to the Park. The most recent addition to our team is Administrative Officer Linda Birkett *(photo left)*. Prior to Nez Perce NHP, Linda worked for the National Park Service's Midwest Regional Office where she oversaw personnel relocation services. February saw the arrival of our new Chief of Interpretation, Laura Law *(photo right)*. Laura comes to us from Glacier National Park with 15 years of experience in the Glacier interpretive and education program. New staff were also added to the resource



management program. Lynn Pinkham started work in December in the role of museum technician. Lynn brings a wealth of experience and is a welcome addition to the collection management team. In late November, Mary James joined the natural resource team in the position of biological science technician. Mary will be working full-time during the summer and part-time during the school year while she finishes her master's degree at the University of Idaho.

The Park's interpretive staff along with staff from Big Hole National Battlefield and Whitman Mission National Historic Site toured the facilities of the Nez Perce Tribal Fish Hatchery in Lenore, ID, during a staff development day. Staff learned about the hatchery's operations, and hope to implement what they learned into future programs and outreach. *(photo left)*.



Nez Perce National Historical Park is coordinating with national, state, tribal, and local authorities to help limit and contain the spread of COVID-19. The safety and health of National Park Service (NPS) employees, visitors, partners, volunteers, and resources remain our top priority. For this reason, the Spalding Visitor Center and Park restrooms have been closed until further notice. We encourage visitors to Find their Virtual Park! NPS parks and programs are sharing virtual content on

their websites and social media. View our [webcams](#), visit our [virtual museum](#), and learn about the history and culture of the Nez Perce people on our website at [www.nps.gov/nepe](http://www.nps.gov/nepe).

Kelly Kincaid. Administrative Assistant, Nez Perce National Historical Park





## News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

Spring comes slowly to this high mountain valley (6300 ft. elevation at the battlefield), so we still have snow drifts while our lowland neighbors have green grass coming on.

Nonetheless, we have seen the snow receding off the valley floor, and the springtime birds have found their way back. This includes six very vocal sandhill cranes that recently made their presence known at the battlefield.

This year has been somewhat of a challenge with the Park modifying operations by closing the Visitor Center on March 18, 2020, due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response. In winter and early spring our staff are usually project driven as visitation slows. For many of us, telework has been an extension of that with a large focus being on our social media and reaching out to our visitors in a different way. If you don't already follow us, check out [our site](https://www.nps.gov/biho) at: <https://facebook.com/BigHoleNationalBattlefield>, <https://twitter.com/BigHoleNPS>, and <https://www.instagram.com/bigholenps>.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Access to the Battlefield does remain open, with limitations due to the amount of snow we still have. Trails can be accessed by parking and walking from the lower gate closure, which is located on the west side of the road, as you enter park from Highway 43. Trails do still have a large amount of snow on them. We encourage you to check the weather forecast and our [webcam](#) before traveling.

At the time of this publication, summer programming is in a holding pattern. We are focused on following the guidelines set forth and keeping everyone as safe as possible. Check out our website at [www.nps.gov/biho](http://www.nps.gov/biho) for upcoming changes as they occur.

### Report from maintenance:

As we continue to follow the COVID-19 guidelines set in place, the Big Hole National Battlefield maintenance staff is pushing forward and preparing for the upcoming season, most of which is being done from our teleworking offices at home. The Park was able to bring on a seasonal maintenance worker to help with preparations. Staff is making essential trips to the Park throughout each week to monitor water, wastewater systems, housing units, snow conditions, at the Battlefield.

A sewer line replacement project is being planned and awarded and will continue when the go-ahead is given. The Park has several other projects, including upgrading the fire suppression systems, placing snow retention systems on visitor center and Park housing, and replacing windows in the Park housing. These are on standby until they can be safely completed.

Maintenance staff has put in place measures to keep staff safe and healthy while performing essential duties including obtaining appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and knowing how to safely use it, cleaning and disinfecting the Park facilities, and practicing social distancing measures.

The time spent teleworking has provided time to make preparations and plans for years to come. Park staff also updated structural fire plans, asset management data, and work plans. We are more organized than ever.

Leslie Lula, Park Guide and Jimmer Stevenson, Maintenance Lead Big Hole National Battlefield





# News From the Bureau of Land Management: Cottonwood Field Office


The Bureau of Land Management, Cottonwood Field Office, Cottonwood, ID, developed interpretive panels addressing the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail at the Cooper's Ferry archeological site, Hammer Creek Recreation Site, French Cemetery, Skookumchuck Creek Recreation Site, and the Slate Creek Recreation Site along the Lower Salmon River. Each interpretive sign addresses that specific location and was a cooperative effort with the Nez Perce Tribe, BLM recreation staff, and the BLM Idaho State Office. The signs will be installed in the summer of 2020.

David Sisson Coeur d'Alene District Archeologist

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail


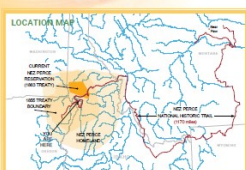
## nipéhe (Cooper's Ferry)

This place is an ancient Nez Perce winter village named *nipéhe* (pronounced nipah-ham-uh). *Nipéhe* translates to 'a term used by an older sister for her younger brother'. The other name came from the Cooper family, who operated the ferry at this location around 1900.



The Nez Perce often used a bull boat to cross sections of river. The boats are circular in shape and could be up to seven feet in diameter. They were constructed using a framework of wooden sticks lashed together with a skin of a large animal stretched around the framework. A person could then paddle these waterproof boats, with additional people and belongings, across the river.


The Nez Perce crossed the Salmon River here at dangerously high spring water runoff levels using horses and possibly bull boats in June 1877.

20.1%
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Images Courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management


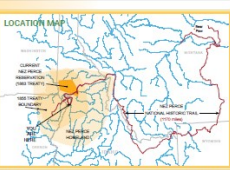
NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail



## tim'siin (Skookumchuck)

The Nez Perce name for the Skookumchuck area is *tim'siin* (pronounced tim-seen) and translates to 'place of chokecherry trees'. Chokecherries were plentiful as well as a multitude of other plants. Skookumchuck Creek is spawning habitat for steelhead and other native fish and was a popular place to fish for salmon and steelhead. This area was also a Nez Perce winter village generally referred to as *taw'yenikees* (pronounced tau-yani-kaas).

The Nez Perce freely traveled throughout a large area using plants, fish, and other animals for sustenance, clothing, and tools. Enough was obtained to meet the needs of the people but always ensured plant and animal populations would flourish. These were a source of life and part of life, not a resource to be exploited. Once confined to the reservation access to plant and animal populations was restricted that ultimately affected the well-being of the tribe.

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# News From the Forest Service

## Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

Visitors to Lolo Pass Visitor Center were treated to a series of guest speakers this winter. Beginning in January we hosted a variety of speakers highlighting some of the innovative partnerships, collaborative projects and unique research happening on or near the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. Topics included Stream Bank Restoration on the Upper Lochsa, Water Isotope Research, and Plant-animal interactions in a changing world. We plan to continue to build and grow our Lolo Pass winter speaker series in 2021 and we hope you will join us!

The Lolo Pass Visitor Center asks that you join in wishing Buffie Cerutti (photo right) a heartfelt bon voyage and thank you for her service as the LPVC manager for the last 10 years. Buffie will be expanding her horizons by taking on a new position with the Chugach National Forest in Alaska after 13 dedicated years on the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest. The Forest is currently outreaching for a detailer and hopes to fill the position permanently in the near future.

Buffie Cerutti Stewart, Manager  
Lolo Pass Visitor Center  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



U.S. Forest Service photos



Photo Courtesy of C.R. Mathisen



U.S. Forest Service photo by Roger Peterson

Camas in bloom at Packer Meadows near the Lolo Pass Visitor Center



## Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and Nez Perce Tribe Nee-Me-Poo Trail Maintenance Report

Trail maintenance has occurred for several years on the NPNHT through a partnership between the Nez Perce Tribe and the U.S. Forest Service. The NPNHT from Musselshell Meadows to the 500 Road was divided into seven management sections. During the field season, these management sections are lumped into four hitches by trail maintenance crew due to access point and distance to suitable camping locations. Trail maintenance completed in 2019 took place over four weeks.

The Nez Perce Tribe cleared out downed logs and dug out wooden water bars to improve drainage and mitigate erosion plus worked on clearing brush, logging out downed trees, loose rock removal, and tread repair. Trail clearing consists of removing downed trees up to 12 inches in diameter and rested on the ground no more than 12 inches high after limb removal. Chainsaw markings are naturalized by dressing the cut face with axe marks or the saw tip. Field crews follow minimal impact camping guidelines.

The section between Snowy Summit, Beaver Dam Saddle, and Forest Road 500 are still experiencing impacts from the fire in 2015. An above average amount of weeds were found along the section from Lolo Forks to Beaver Dam Saddle. In 2019 these weeds were treated by the Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Crews by hand pulling primarily focused on hounds tongue, prickly lettuce, and common mullein.

Future plans are to continue weed treatment practices in hopes of reducing patch size and distribution along the trail corridor as well as keeping invasion at a minimum to surrounding forest environments. The priority for trail maintenance will continue to replace water bars where needed. All un-needed rebar will be pulled, packed to the trailhead, and recycled.

Portions of a larger report prepared by: Justin Peterson and Elizabeth Eastman, Nez Perce Tribe



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## Spring Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Bitterroot, Yellowstone National Park  
*National Park Service photo, Neal Herbert*



Osprey building a spring nest, Montana  
*U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson*



Syringa, Western Montana  
*U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson*



Canada Goose family Bitterroot Valley, Montana  
*U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson*



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