



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

## Progress Report

Summer 2020

### Administrator’s Corner

Happy summer to all our friends, partners, and Trail family. The events of recent months have left many Americans planning for a new normal this summer season. I’m writing to you from the Nez Perce branch (aka my office at home) on a beautiful summer day. The Forest Service decided to have employees stay at home on March 19, and many of us haven’t seen each other up close and personal since then, just via Zoom/TEAMS meetings. It’s hard, but necessary to keep our communities safe. We know there has been a lot going on in the world recently. We also know how much the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and Auto Tour Route means to you and how they can be a place of solace and hope for us all-especially in difficult times like these. Enjoying time on the Trail or even a visit to one of the Auto Tour Route stops can help beat back the pandemic blues while creating meaningful memories while still maintaining social distancing and respecting the health and safety of others.



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson

In fact, you may not have realized it, but you’re an owner of one of the Nation’s greatest collections of historic, natural, and cultural treasures. It’s true. With the designation of the NPNHT in 1986, people like you become “owners” of these special places. This includes majestic mountain peaks, deep valleys, vast prairies, sacred battlefields, celebrated monuments, picturesque rivers, and much more. Since portions of the Trail are public land, they are all yours. There is a legacy you, your children, and your grandchildren get to enjoy.

Here at the NPNHT Administration Program we are deeply committed to listening to our communities, from tribes to Trail lovers, to ensure that our Trail experience challenges, educates, engages, and inspires all of you. We want to connect people to the history and living cultures of the Trail. We do this in schools and online to educate future generations through public events to invite people to reflect on what history can teach us about creating a better future. We hope to be able to return to a time of public events when it is safe for everyone to participate.

Enjoy Trail games, share some quotes of the Trail by the campfire, or relate a short piece of history of your camp site. Bird bingo sharpens birding skills on the Trail or in camp. Make a simple tic-tac-toe board using sticks, stones, and pine cones for the playing pieces. Or make up your own game! For more ideas, visit our Teacher’s Guide on the NPNHT website [Learning Center](#).

As a “Trails Family,” we need to be there for each other and reach out to neighbors and family members who need support. The states the Trail crosses are very diverse and expansive. A solution for one area might not be the solutions for another part of the Trail in a different state. Be cognizant of this and check before you travel or volunteer along the NPNHT.

The NPNHT will continue to be preserved for future generations by people donating their time volunteering, sharing fundraising, and dedicating themselves to our mission. Through your care of this historic landscape, you are also stewarding our trail by preserving this historic landscape, benefiting the environment, and ensuring we can continue, together, to make a positive impact on generations of today and tomorrow.

*Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT*

*“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”*

*—Coretta Scott King*



Nez Perce National Historic Trail

August 2020



## Electronic Tour Sites: Enhancing Visitor Experience on Two National Historic Trails



The Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark (NHL) encompasses the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT) through the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests of north central Idaho. To highlight these historically and culturally significant places, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests initiated its Historic Routes Project with the goal of installing Electronic Tour Sites at various locations along the trails. As part of a pilot project being tested out by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) National Technology and Development Program, six Electronic Tour Sites were installed in the summer and fall of 2019 at backcountry entry points along the Lolo Trail NHL and at Lolo Pass Visitor Center. *(Photo left, Chrysann Jaeger poses with the Lolo Pass Visitor Center Electronic Tour Site).*

An Electronic Tour Site is essentially a hotspot in the backcountry, where one would normally not have any network connection, that enables visitors to download brochures, maps, podcasts, and more from onsite Wi-Fi. Content featured on each site can be customized to meet the specific needs of the trailhead or section of the Lolo Trail. The NPNHT Auto Tours are featured on these electronic sites, as well as other pertinent content to the trail, Nez Perce, Lewis and Clark, local history, and general information about the region and the forests. Each digital kiosk unit costs approximately \$1,000, including hardware, programming, and installation. The project has been funded through an initial grant and USFS funds.

As the project moves further into implementation, more specific interpretive content will be developed for individual sites, guided by the recently completed Interpretive Plan. Initial content that is currently uploaded to these sites is in the form of brochures, topographic maps, and pilot podcasts that were readily available. Additional Electronic Tour Sites pertaining to the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark NHTs are planned for installation in 2020 at four community and front country indoor locations surrounding the trails, and five additional outdoor and backcountry locations.

### Site Specifics:

#### Musselshell Meadows:

This NPNHT trailhead illustrates the importance of Nez Perce culture and Lewis and Clark emerging from Lolo Trail NHL onto Weippe Prairie.

#### Beaver Dam Saddle:

This main Lolo Trail entrance emphasizes trapping, hunting, mining, and changes after Lewis and Clark's journey opened the west to American expansion. *(Photo right)*



#### Saddle Camp:

One of the main access points to NPNHT and LCNHT that shows the importance of the Lolo Trail as a historic trade route with the Nez Perce and Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

#### Powell Junction:

The eastern entrance for Lolo Trail NHL provides ecosystem information and highlights how fire has shaped the landscape along the trail.

#### Lolo Pass Visitor Center:

The indoor kiosk describes the cultural importance of the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River, Lewis and Clark's trek across the Lolo Trail, and the Nez Perce War of 1877.

#### Lochsa Lodge:

The indoor kiosk describes the cultural importance of the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River, Lewis and Clark's trek across the Lolo Trail, and the Nez Perce War of 1877.

Learn more about the project: [chrysann.jaeger@usda.gov](mailto:chrysann.jaeger@usda.gov)  
[fs.usda.gov/detail/nezperceclearwater](https://fs.usda.gov/detail/nezperceclearwater)

by Chrysann Jaeger, Recreation Programs Assistant and Historic Routes Project Manager, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests  
Article originally appeared in the [Partnership for the National Trails System](#) Spring 2020 Pathways Magazine

*The staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic want to congratulate Chrysann Jaeger on recently accepting a full time position with the U.S. Forest Service as the Developed Recreation Lead for the Central Zone of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests! All the best!*



## In 1914, the first car traveled over Big Hole Road

The trail that crosses the Continental Divide at Gibbons Pass has been utilized for countless centuries by Native Americans on their frequent sojourns to and from the Bitter Root Valley.

In fact, the Salish Indians were preparing to cross the mountains over this very pass on the way to their fall buffalo hunt when Lewis and Clark met them in September of 1805. The following year Captain Clark and his men used the same gap in the mountains to return to their canoes and supplies that they had stashed at Camp Fortunate on the upper reaches of the Jefferson River.



Teamsters on the Old Big Hole Road. Photo Courtesy Ravalli Co. Museum

For some time afterwards the low saddle crossing the divide was actually known as Clark's Pass, until General John Gibbon used it in during the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. It seems likely that buffalo herds also filtered into the Bitter Root Valley over the same pass in prehistoric times, and Captain Clark actually reported seeing old dried buffalo skulls strung out along the well-used trail he followed when he crossed over to the Big Hole Valley in the summer of 1806.

Eventually a rough wagon road was hewn out over the pass so that produce from the Bitter Root could be transported to the mining camps around Bannack and Virginia City. The steep slope on the west side of the mountain had presented quite a problem for teamsters bringing goods in and out of the valley since the 1850s.

The first Forest Service road built in the district was the Big Hole Road, which crossed from Camp Creek in the Sula Basin, over to the Big Hole Battlefield west of Wisdom.

In 1914 Nathaniel E. Wilkerson, a district forester who had been with the Bitter Root Forest Reserve since its inception in 1897, was assigned the job of surveying and overseeing the construction of the mountainous road which would link the two valleys. Frank Bonner, who was a district engineer out of Missoula, was chosen to aid and assist "Than" Wilkerson on the road survey and grade calculations.

The road was 26.6 miles long and followed the natural contours of the mountain, and for the most part avoided the rockiest portions of the hillside. It cost \$52,000 to survey and construct the road, with funds coming from the U.S. Forest Service, Ravalli and Beaverhead County taxpayers, and various other private investors and supporters of the project.

According to Wilkerson the first car to travel the road was driven by Dr. Herbert Hayward and Al Rissman.

At the time Hayward was a practicing physician in Darby, and Rissman operated a pharmacy there. While the road was being built Dr. Hayward had been treating the workers who toiled relentlessly on the steep grades of the mountain trail. Many of the workers were Bulgarians and Montenegrins from the Butte mines who had also worked on local projects, such as the Lake Como Dam and the Big Ditch, just a few years earlier.

The first-quarter mile of roadway was leveled off with horses and scraper blades, but after that the job had to be tackled by laborers wielding picks and shovels. Mr. Wilkerson estimated the grade at 5% on the 7½ miles that made up the western slope, and the ground was mostly decomposed granite, which made for an incredibly hard and durable roadbed.

The work was paid out on a yardage basis, and the road was measured up in 100-foot sections. A worker received 40 cents a yard for moving dirt, and the average pay was about \$2 a day! The Beaverhead County portion of the road was more gently sloping, and horses and grader blades were used to level that section of the road.

As the project neared completion, the towns of Darby and Wisdom were becoming extremely excited at the prospect of finally being linked together by a functional roadway, and the Wisdom Chamber of Commerce invited their Bitter Root neighbors to send a pilot car over the new road as soon as possible.



Dr. Hayward had a brand new Ford runabout and he and Al Rissman decided to make the crossing in September of 1914. On the appointed day the two men lashed a couple of 2x12 planks onto the sides of the motorcar and set out upon their maiden voyage. Meanwhile, the citizens of the Big Hole Valley eagerly awaited the expected arrival of the adventurous motorists later that day.

No sooner had the car started its ascent of the west slope than the cooling system began to boil over, and the men had to stop periodically to climb down to a creek to get water for the radiator. This process was repeated over and over until the motorists got too tired to fetch water and decided to wait for the brisk mountain air to cool the red-hot engine.

It was just about dusk when the trailblazers neared the top of the mountain where Ravalli County ends and Beaverhead County begins. Then, just before reaching the summit, the car hit a stump that knocked the oil pan drain plug loose, causing the engine to lose all of its motor oil! The men ate a hearty steak supper at the road worker's camp that was situated near the summit, while the camp's blacksmith fabricated a wooden plug that would hopefully seal up the leaky oil pan.

The plug worked, but the unprepared tourists had neglected to bring any spare oil along with them. Luckily, the ingenious camp cook provided them with enough cooking oil to once again get them on their way!

It was dark when the men left the camp and started to make their way down the old Trail Creek Road. After a couple of miles the duo came out onto a large prairie where they hit a big rock in the road, which damaged the vehicle's steering mechanism. They spent the night in an old abandoned cabin with no heat and no warm blankets. Early in the morning they found enough tools in the car to get the damaged part off, and then used rocks to pound it back into good enough shape to steer the car!

By sunup they were on the road again, crossing Trail Creek back and forth using their 16 foot-long planks to drive on. At Ruby Creek the car slid off the planks and got mired down in the muck. Fortunately, a cowboy came along who offered to lasso the bumper of the car and pull it out of the mire with his horse. When the car engine started up, the horse bolted, and the cowboy was instantly dumped into the swamp! The three men were forced to walk to the Ruby Ranch, where they found a good steak dinner and another horse to pull them out of their fix.

Once the car had been pulled through the creek and up on to dry land, the men set out on the last 15 miles of the road that would bring them in to Wisdom. When they finally arrived in Wisdom they found that the anticipated celebration had worn off, and the steak dinner waiting there for them was cold and uneaten.

The celebrators themselves had finally given up on the two Bitter Rooters and were found just a little worse for wear in the town saloon where they had all gone afterwards to nurse their wounds and drown their sorrows. By the time the intrepid Darby motorists finally made a showing, Dick Hathaway, the editor of the 'Big Hole Breezes' was reportedly "filled to the gills with wild moose milk." Sporting a huge 20-gallon hat, the jovial editor of the local paper quickly hoisted the two weary travelers up on to the bar top, where they were repeatedly toasted by the reinvigorated crowd, until everyone present was perfectly satisfied with the somewhat delayed outcome of the historic automotive adventure.

Early one fine September morning, after the damage to both the car and the drivers had been properly attended to, the men set forth on their return trip to the Bitter Root Valley. This time around they made it clear through to Darby in a single day, stopping once again for another hot steak dinner at the worker's camp near the summit of Big Hole Mountain.

Eventually both Dr. Hayward and Al Rissman moved to Hamilton, where they each set up shop. Dr. Hayward continued to practice medicine, but Mr. Rissman got out of the drug store business and opened up a service station. Apparently, he had lately come to realize that proper vehicle maintenance would soon be a necessary requirement for the traveler of the future.

For a while the Montana Highway Department took over the routine maintenance of the Big Hole Road, and guardrails were even installed on the sharp curves of the steep western slopes. Unfortunately, the guardrails were removed later on, and if you ever happen to be driving along the outside lane of the road, you'll definitely appreciate how they might have helped to make a driver feel a little more confident while rounding some of those narrow blind corners.

In 1963 a new road was opened up over Chief Joseph Pass, which connects the Big Hole Valley to Highway 93 near the Idaho state line. The U. S. Forest Service once again maintains the Gibbon's Pass Road, and it's likely that not too many people who cross over it these days are really aware of the story about the two local boys who drove the first car over the mountain. The Ravalli Republic is teaming up with Ravalli County Museum to bring you a series of local history and photo features. If you would like more information on today's subject, please contact the Ravalli County Museum at [www.ravallimuseum.org](http://www.ravallimuseum.org). You can also find them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For additional information about how to safely navigate this Rugged Route please visit the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail website and access Auto Tour brochure #3 Lolo, Montana to the Big Hole National Battlefield, Montana, through the Bitterroot Valley: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/npnht/home/?cid=fsbdev3\\_055663](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/npnht/home/?cid=fsbdev3_055663).

By Wm. W. Whitfield Ravalli County Museum May 9, 2020



## #Recreate Responsibly

Recreating responsibly is about people and places. Bring a face covering, avoid crowded or closed areas, and build an inclusive outdoors where everyone is welcome. Be part of the #RecreateResponsibly movement.

No matter how you like to get outside, we are all united by the love we share for our parks, trails, and waterways. The need to #RecreateResponsibly will continue even after the pandemic is behind us. We have a shared responsibility to care for one another and these places to ensure they remain for future generations to enjoy.

As state and local guidelines evolve, we can all be a part of making the outdoors a safe place to be. Following the #RecreateResponsibly guidelines will keep everyone safe as we enjoy our parks, waters, trails, and forests. Learn more: <https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/>



### Lightning Safety - When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors

Lightning strikes can kill or seriously injure a person in the blink of an eye. Watch the skies and seek safe shelter if you hear thunder or see lightning.

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, 396 people were struck and killed by lightning in the United States between 2006 and 2018. Almost two-thirds of those killed nationwide were involved in outdoor leisure activities at the time they were struck.

If you can hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you. The safest place to be is inside a sturdy shelter, such as a house. Even the inside of a car with a hard top is safer than being out in the open during a thunderstorm.

If you are inside a vehicle, avoid touching metal surfaces that could conduct electricity. Never seek cover under a tree or think you are safe by being low to the ground. Get out of open areas and away from bodies of water, such as lakes or rivers.

If a person you are with is struck by lightning, immediately dial 911 and start performing CPR. Don't be afraid to touch the victim – the human body does not hold an electrical charge.



# White Bird Memorial 2020



Photo Courtesy of Rosa Yearout

Glory Rose Sobotta rides during commemoration

Each year the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPApHC), which is based on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, ID, has taken part in the Nez Perce tribe's ceremony at the White Bird Battlefield in remembrance of the events of June 17, 1877. In prior years this has always been held on the Saturday closest to the actual date of the battle and is held in conjunction with the Chief Joseph and Warriors memorial powwow at Lapwai. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual powwow was canceled. This ceremony was very close to the heart of our mother and grandmother, Rena Katherine Lott Ramsey (Wi'cese/Born and Reborn). She never missed this event. Her grandparents, Wottolen and Wi'cese, were members of the White Bird band and were participants in the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. So, Katherine's descendants decided to go to the Battlefield, take horses, pray, and have lunch on June 17, 2020, Tribal holiday. Then, after Wilfred "Scotty" Scott contacted the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP), it became a NPApHC activity and ended up attracting the largest turnout in quite a while. After an opening prayer around 10 a.m. PDT, Club members paraded on horses in traditional regalia. They encircled the attendees in the new parking lot, and then rode their Appaloosas, owned by Jon and Rosa Yearout, up on the hill in the Battlefield, had prayer on top, and rode about four miles of trail.

Meanwhile, back at the parking lot, Scotty led prayers and sharing in the circle as our

Nimiipuu ancestors were remembered and honored when descendants spoke of their family ties to the White Bird Battle and the retreat that followed, which resulted in the people being scattered after Chief Joseph's surrender at Bears Paw on October 5, 1877, to Canada, Kansas, Oklahoma, and ending up in several states and Canada where their descendants still live today. Ceremonies like this bring us together, unite families, and encourages our youth to learn about and carry on practices started by their ancestors. After the prayers and sharing ended, the NPApHC provided a light lunch and bottled water to all those in attendance.

We are all grateful to each cog in the wheel that made this ceremony and ride at the White Bird Battlefield continue. At first, the event was cancelled, but Katherine's granddaughter and NPApHC member, Joyce McFarland, thought of her *qaaca*. When Scotty wanted to go, too, word got out, and that's all she wrote.

Rosa Yearout, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club



Photo Courtesy of Rosa Yearout

Riders commemorate the White Bird Battle



## News from the Wallowa Homeland

After careful consideration, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland (NPWH) and the Tamkaliks Committee made the difficult decision to postpone the 30th Anniversary of the Tamkaliks Celebration and Friendship Feast until 2021. This will be the first summer in 30 years without a Tamkaliks Celebration taking place in Wallowa. As sad as it is, we feel strongly that this is the best way to protect the health and safety of our Tamkaliks family as well as the local community. Thank you for your patience and flexibility. We'll miss each of you greatly this July and look forward to coming together in July of 2021 for what will be one of the most unifying and celebratory Tamkaliks yet.

It's a strange time for us all as we adapt to new standards of living. Nonprofits are adjusting, too, as events are cancelled, and much in-person programming isn't possible. Here at the NPWH, our work is rooted in creating access — access to place, to information, to community — and the pandemic has inspired us to find new ways to do this. We're excited to announce that our entire Visitor Center exhibit is now available online. Enjoy the interpretive panels, artifacts, photographs, and Nez Perce artwork that we have on display here in Wallowa, without leaving home. Our online photo gallery (*Photo above*) allows you to experience the Homeland property and memories of past Tamkaliks Celebrations remotely, including aerial footage of the grounds. Join us on our website: [wallowanezperce.org](http://wallowanezperce.org).

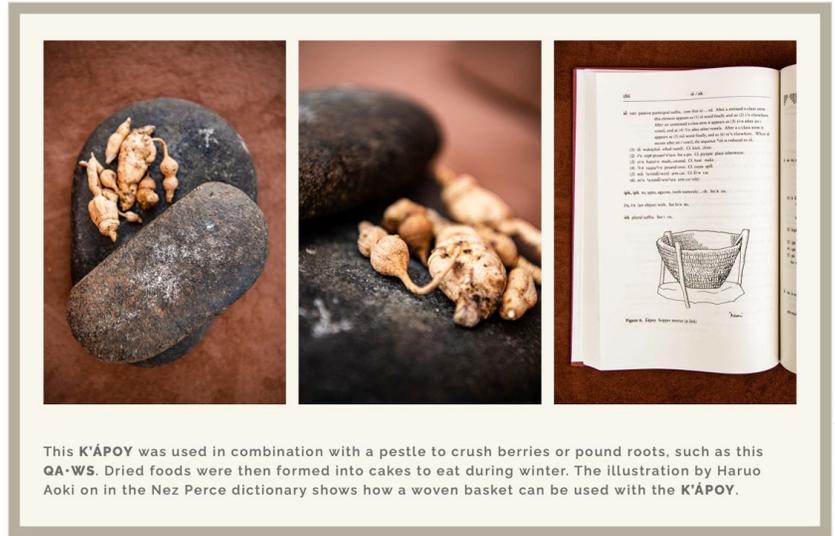


Photo Courtesy of NPWH

Online access isn't the only way we're reaching our community. Youth are our future and we are working hard to keep them engaged with the NPWH this summer, even with our regular programming on pause. We've created two take-home activities to download for your kids. The first is an Earth Day lesson about tamalwit, the spiritual connection to the land which guides Nez Perce life ways. The second is a storytelling activity, promoting stories as a way of teaching and learning about the world. You can find both of these activities on our website.

For the full newsletter including updates from Wallowa Homeland Chairperson Carla Timentwa and Executive Director Angela Bombaci please read the full Summer newsletter on the [NPWH website](http://NPWH website).

Angela Bombaci and Sara Averbeck, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland



## Some Good News in Pandemic Times

With all of the fear and uncertainty of recent months, we had a blessing fall into our laps. We had commissioned a video account of our Main Street sculpture project last summer, and we now have the completed 4-minute video.

The work, by artist Doug Hyde, brings up a very difficult time in the life of the Nez Perce people, their exile from this Wallowa country, but it celebrates a return. It is not an all at once return; it is not return to what it was in pre-settler days. But a “return from a very difficult journey,” has begun, and we at the Josephy Center are proud to be part of it.

The sculpture installation on Main Street in Joseph was completed on June 22, 2019. (Photo right) The name of the sculpture is ‘etweyé: wise, which means, in the Nez Perce language, “I return from a difficult journey.” The artist is Doug Hyde, born in Hermiston, raised at Lapwai, sent by a wise teacher to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe at 17, Viet Nam veteran, and now one of the leading sculptors in the country.



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson

For photos and the video account of June 22, go to: <https://josephy.org/library/plateau-indian-art-on-main-street/>

Thanks to the many people who made this possible.

Rich Wandschneider, Director, Josephy Center for Arts and Culture Josephy Library

## Permanent Nez Perce Exhibit at Josephy Center Continues to Take Shape

Work continues on the permanent Nez Perce display at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, in Joseph, Oregon.

Outside the log building that is the Josephy Center home, there is a 16-foot dugout canoe crafted by Allen Pinkham Jr., a sixteen-foot tipi built by Steve and Connie Evans, and a sculpture in granite and bronze by nationally known Nez Perce sculptor Doug Hyde.

Inside the building, we have a permanent wall exhibit detailing the life of Alvin Josephy, namesake of our building and author of *The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest*. There is a new standing wall exhibit with information on the *wal wama* band of the Nez Perce who lived in the *wal awa* country, and their leaders *tiwi teqis*, *olakot*, and *hinmatto wyalahqtit*. The very basic story of the Nez Perce is told in word, and, with a dual language, 5 ft x 3 ft wall map of the *wal awa*. A dip net, salmon spear, cradleboard, and other implements join photos from previous exhibits of Nez Perce culture accompany the exhibit.

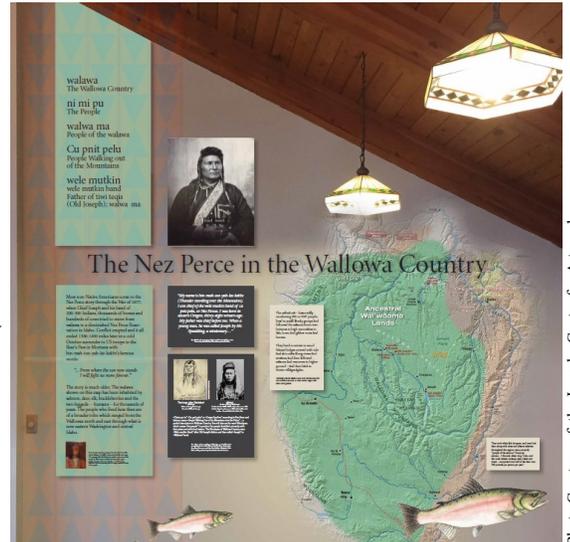


Photo Courtesy of the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture

These exhibit elements were made possible with grants from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, the Autzen and Wheeler Foundations, Cycle Oregon Foundation, and a Creative Heights Grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. Exhibit elements were thoroughly discussed with tribal elders and linguists—Angel Sabota, Soy Redthunder, Jewie Davis, Albert Andrews, Phil Cash, and others. We have worked with Tamástslíkt, the Nez Perce National Historical Park, Crow’s Shadow, and tribal artists in building temporary exhibits on Nez Perce life, dams and fish, Nez Perce Music, and “gift art.”

We will continue to work with numerous partners in the coming months to enhance the exhibit.

In addition, in order to incorporate inside and outside exhibits we plan a prominent explanatory plaque—50-75 words—for each of the three major outside elements: the canoe, tipi, and sculpture.

Rich Wandschneider, Director, Josephy Center for Arts and Culture Josephy Library





## Be Safe in Your Travels

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



## UPCOMING Events: STAY TUNED

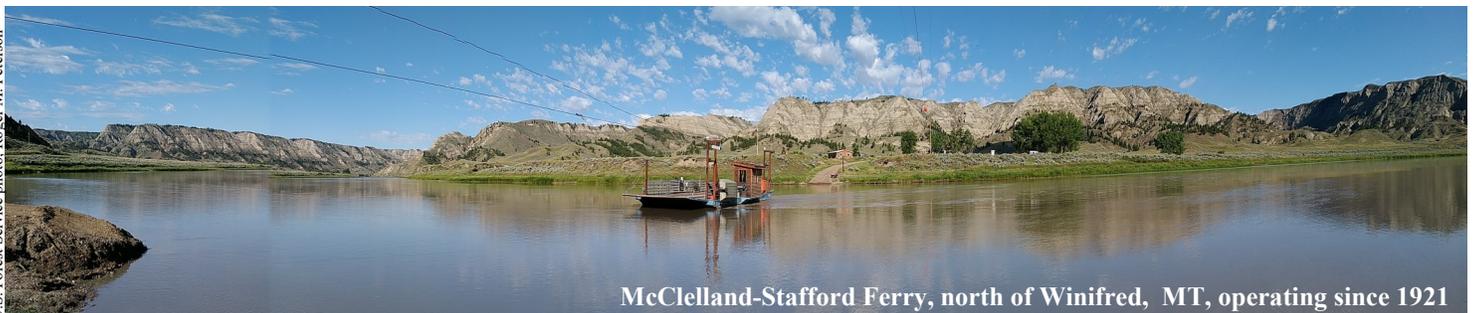


Numerous events have been cancelled or postponed due to the current Public Health Emergency. Please follow us on Twitter @npnht or watch for additional updates on our website. Be well and be safe!!

PNTS Virtual Workshop October 22-23, 2020: <http://pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/>

PNTS Virtual Meeting October 26-28, 2020: <http://pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/>

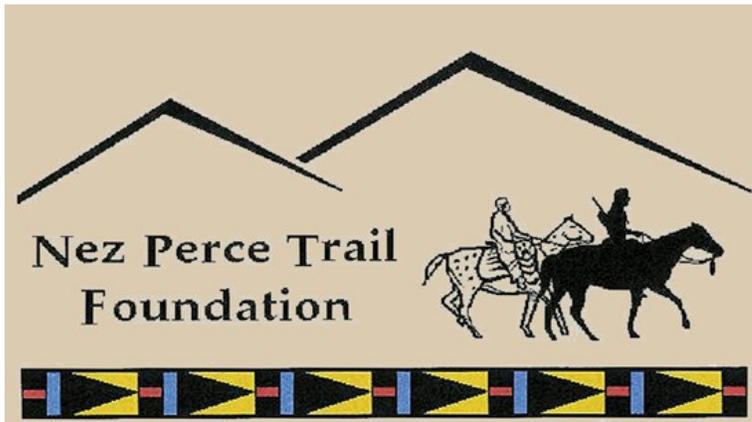
## Dreaming of Future Summer Travels Along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Historic Trail



McClelland-Stafford Ferry, north of Winifred, MT, operating since 1921



# News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



Normally this time of year the Nez Perce Trail Foundation Board of Directors would be heading to Wallowa, OR. For several years, our annual Board of Directors meeting has been held in conjunction with the Tamkaliks celebration in Wallowa. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the Tamkaliks event has been canceled which in turn was a good and safe reason to stay home this year. Plans for the 2020 annual NPTF Summer Education Tour have also been canceled but plans to regroup and carry on for 2021 are well under way. Director Karen Heagen will again serve as host for next year's summer

tour. Karen will provide valuable and interesting information relative to specific locations and events that played a significant part in the Nez Perce flight of 1877. As of this writing, plans are to retrace the 1877 war route starting at Wallowa, OR, and ending with multiple day visits to historic sites in Yellowstone National Park. Additional information and details will be forthcoming in the next Progress Report and information will be posted on our Facebook page and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation web site, ([www.nezpercetrail.net](http://www.nezpercetrail.net)).



The Nez Perce Trail Foundation has served as a member of the [Partnership for the National Trails System](#) for several decades. Mr. Gary Werner is the only Executive Director of the Partnership we have known and worked with for the many years we have been affiliated with the Partnership. Gary recently retired from his position as Executive Director after 30 years of dedicated, loyal, and unselfish service to the Partnership. Gary has been a faithful contributor to the Nez Perce Trail Foundation in many ways and his support of our mission to Preserve, Protect, and Commemorate the Nez Perce National Historic Trail has never faltered. The Foundation will always be in debt for the leadership he has provided on behalf of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation and all the other

Flashback to the Summer 2019 Educational Tour. The group gathers for evening lessons. Wallowa, OR

National Scenic and Historic Trails throughout the U.S. The Partnership for the National Trails System most recently announced the appointment

of Valerie Rupp of Baltimore, MD, to serve as its new Executive Director of the Partnership. Valerie's resume and credentials are extremely impressive, and her management background is a testament to the devotion, dedication, and energy she puts forth in the promotion of outdoor recreation, parks, and trails.

Hopefully the Coronavirus Pandemic will pass in the not too distant future so we can get back to business. Our Trail extension efforts and the Leavenworth, KS, monument work are on hold for the moment due in large part to the virus outbreak. We look forward to resuming our work on both fronts as soon as possible. Be careful and stay safe, and we hope that we all might be closer to a normal way of life soon.

Jim Zimmerman  
President, NPTF  
[www.nezpercetrail.net](http://www.nezpercetrail.net)





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

Nez Perce National Historical Park is excited to welcome a new staff this summer. Acting Chief of Resources Dave Nichols is on detail from Mojave National Preserve until early October. He brings a wealth of resource management experience from throughout his career as an archaeologist with the National Park Service (NPS). Barbara Michel, also on detail from Mojave, has joined the Park’s interpretation and education team for the summer. Barbara did her thesis work on water treatment practices in southern Senegal and worked briefly at a Nevada wildlife refuge before becoming an Interpretive Park Ranger for the National Park Service in 2018. We welcome back the familiar faces of two interpretive seasonal staff, June Stewart and Pete Wilson. Both June and Pete have worked for the Park in the past and are happy to be back in the visitor center. Our facilities crew is thrilled to welcome Johnson Ancheta back to the Park (*Photo right*). Johnson was a member of the Park’s Northwest Conservation Corps in 2019 and brings a strong foundation of technical skills and abilities to the team.



Photos Courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Join Park Rangers this summer at Nez Perce National Historical Park’s visitor center for daily programs. Topics range from historical figures like Nez Perce Cowboy Jackson Sundown to the use of traditional objects like cradle boards and much more! These free programs started July 19 and are held every day at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. PDT.

The health and safety of those who visit and work in national parks continues to be paramount, which is why we ask visitors to be our partner in adopting social distancing practices. The [CDC has offered guidance](#) to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases while enjoying the outdoors. We ask the public to be our partner in adopting social distancing practices and to wear a cloth face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.

The Park would like to congratulate Superintendent Mike Gauthier on his new position at Mojave National Preserve which begins in mid-August. We want to thank Mike for his leadership, experience, and guidance over the last few years. In the interim we welcome Charles Beall as Acting Superintendent. Charles has worked in the NPS for nearly 25 years and moved to Seattle in 2015 to become the Superintendent of the Seattle Area National Park sites. The sites and programs under his management included the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial (a unit of Minidoka National Historic Site), the Outdoor Recreation Information Center at REI’s Seattle flagship store, and the Seattle Trails and Rails partnership with Amtrak.

Kelly Kincaid. Administrative Assistant, Nez Perce National Historical Park





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

Summer at Big Hole National Battlefield was ushered in with preparations for the reopening of our visitor center. Sneezeguards were placed along the register/desk area, touchable items removed, hand sanitizer stations set up, and cleaning and sanitizing protocols put in place. Several signs leading from the parking lot to the visitor center to let the visitor know what to expect inside.

The doors opened for the weekend of June 20-21, 2020, and adjusted to Friday-Sunday starting with the holiday weekend of July 3-5. Pete Wilson, a Nez Perce cultural demonstrator, traveled all the way from Lapwai, ID, to assist with the busy weekend (*Photo right*).

New faces arrived on July 8 as we welcomed Elizabeth Angell and Owen Ellis as our new seasonal Interpretive Park Rangers (*Photo below*). Visitation continues to be very busy and we are so glad to have their help this summer.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

The visitor center opened on a five days a week, Wednesday-Sunday, schedule starting July 29. The 26-minute Park movie, *There Is No Turning Back*, can still be viewed every hour on the half hour, and visitors will need to pre-register for it upon their arrival as there is limited seating available.

Big Hole National Battlefield maintenance staff and the Parks three Youth Conservation Corps crew members have been busy this summer with many projects. We were happy to have Tate Raymond, Athena Diaz, and Patsea Farrow arrive in mid-June

to assist with projects. Besides stepping up our custodial duties throughout the Park during Covid-19, the staff has been engaged in a number of projects including caring for the grounds around the Visitor Center and housing, staining the Visitor Center siding and cedar fence around that staff housing, annual sign maintenance including stabilizing and painting posts, repairing and building boundary fence, peeling of replacement tipis poles, repairing two decks that had collapsed due to snow load, and much more! Also, contractors have begun replacement of sewage collection pipes throughout Park.

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



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service





## Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks: Travelers' Rest State Park

Travelers' Rest State Park has seen a lot of changes this past spring! We're excited that during this challenging time we've been able to continue to inspire visitors to connect with the local heritage. The Travelers' Rest Connection acquired grant money to fund exhibit re-design due to COVID-19. This included putting all of our "touchable" exhibits under glass. If you haven't visited the Travelers' Rest Visitor Center since we re-opened on June 3, stop by and see what new exhibits we have on display.

Maci MacPherson, Park Manager, Travelers' Rest, Fort Owen, and Painted Rocks State Parks

Photo Courtesy of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks



Photo Courtesy of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks





# News From the Forest Service

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

During the spring quarter the Lolo Pass Visitor Center (LPVC) was closed to the public due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Visitor Center has since reopened on a limited basis, operating out of the front window for the summer quarter. We are currently operating Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. PDT. We will likely be shifting to a Thursday through Monday Schedule beginning on the weekend of the July 26, 2020. Conditions permitting, we hope to resume 7 day a week operation in the future. *(Photo Right: Jamie Karpicus working the window)*



U.S. Forest Service photo, Gabriel Hobson



Photo Courtesy of Brandon McHone

Stacia Morfin (Nez Perce Tourism) far left, Solo Greene 2nd from left (Stacia's father), and other family members in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

While we couldn't serve the public, the spring quarter was not lost as our partners at Discover Your Northwest (DYNW) have been getting creative in highlighting the Nez Perce Artist in Residence program through digital media. Project Manager Colleen Mathison and Grants and Agreements Specialist Jimi Hightower, along with former LPVC Manager Buffie Stewart, secured a grant through the Idaho Arts and Humanities Council and have partnered with Idaho Public Television to produce a series of vignettes highlighting Nez Perce artists. Five artists will be featured in ten-minute segments. These productions will highlight the artists producing their art and how their art for is significant to the Nez Perce or Plains culture. Artist that have been selected to be features thus far include Roger Amerman, Stacia Morfin, and Solo Greene.

Local high school students Brandon McHone *(Photo right)* (videographer) and Preston Amerman (sound) are leading the production with editing assistance from DYNW employee Sacha Wells.



Photo Courtesy of Brandon McHone

McHone and Amerman will also be featured in a vignette about their work making the films. McHone recently began filming at Hells Canyon where he documented Stacia Morfin presenting an interpretive talk for a jet boat tour. Filming and production are scheduled to conclude October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

These films are planned to be used by DYNW and The US Forest Service to provide interpretive and educational opportunities to the public virtually. The artists' work may also be available for sale at Lolo Pass in the future if logistics related to COVID-19 allow.

Gabriel Hobson, Acting Manager  
Lolo Pass Visitor Center  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Photo Courtesy of C.R. Mathisen





# News From the Forest Service

## Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

A series of interpretive signs highlighting both the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails are back in place along U.S. Highway 12 in central Idaho near mile post 140, just west of the junction with Forest Road 107 Saddle Camp Road (*Photo below*). A four person volunteer crew put them up this spring, while maintaining social distancing. They still need to cut the ends of the crossbar to about half the current length. The plan is to accomplish that work this summer sometime. At the same time stain will be applied to the raw ends of the wood.



Photo Courtesy of Chuck Raddon

During the 4th of July weekend members of the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation also finished a project that started in 2019 by hanging an interpretive sign at the Musselshell trailhead for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (*Photo right*).

The pollen garden at Musselshell was in full bloom and glorious.

Chapter members identified a problem with our construction design at Beaverdam Saddle and those signs are now being repaired and should be reinstalled by the end of July. They plan on retrofitting all the other signs over the summer. Moisture can collect inside a sign at the bottom in freeze-thaw conditions spreading the base. They will reseal to prevent moisture entry. Work can be done on site if reached before the bottom separates.

Special thanks to Chuck Raddon and all the volunteers from the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis Clark Trail Heritage Foundation for making these projects happen!



Photo Courtesy of Chuck Raddon



## New Faces Along the Trail:

### Dave Sabo New Forest Service Region One Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator

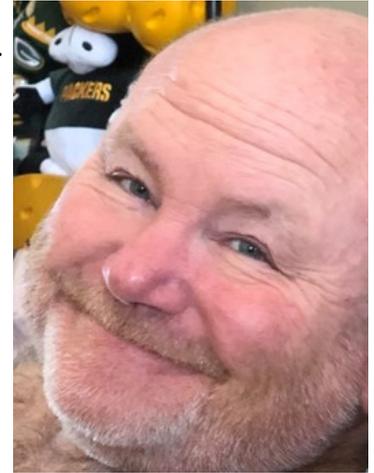
Dave Sabo is the new Regional Volunteers, Conservation Education, Youth, and Services Program Coordinator having, replaced Joni Packard who retired the end of May.

Prior to this position, Dave was the District Ranger on the Butte Ranger District for eight years. Dave's first Ranger assignment was on the Chemult Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema NF.

Dave has more than 33 years of experience in natural resource management working for the Forest Service. Dave began his Forest Service career in 1984 as a seasonal employee in timber management in Cobalt, ID. He spent ten years working his way up from a Forestry Technician to a Timber Management Assistant. Dave also spent twelve years on the Salmon-Challis National Forests as a Minerals Management Specialist. Over his career, he enjoyed detail opportunities in recreation and as the Acting District Ranger on the Beaver Ranger District of the Fishlake National Forest in Utah.

Dave earned a degree in Forest Management from Utah State University in Logan, UT, in 1987. He and his wife, Kendra, have two grown sons who also work for the Forest Service. At home you will find a playful yellow lab named Gracie and a new kitten named Gizmo. Their oldest son Nathan is a Supervisory Contracting Officer at the Redmond Air Center in Redmond, OR, and their youngest son Shawn is a Range Technician on the Pawnee National Grasslands in Ault, CO.

Dave enjoys whitewater rafting, gardening, hunting and fishing, and spending time with family and friends.



U.S. Forest Service photo

### Travelers' Rest State Park Welcomes Morrison

Marisa Morrison was hired in March 2020 into a permanent Park Ranger position, formally occupied by Vernon Carroll, who retired last November. Morrison serves as the Park Ranger for Travelers' Rest, Fort Owen, and Painted Rock State Parks in the Bitterroot Valley. Her position helps monitor trails, assist with maintenance, and assist with supervising seasonal operations. She comes to us originally from Boston, MA, and has a diverse background including working for the National Park Service as an interpretive Park Ranger, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks out of the Missoula office in the fisheries and wildlife divisions. She brings a lot of knowledge and fun energy to our operation, and we hope you can see her out on the trails or giving a program in the Park someday!



Photo Courtesy of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks



## New Faces Along the Trail:

### Valerie Rupp named Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System



Photo Courtesy of the PNTS

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) has appointed Valerie C. Rupp of Baltimore, MD, to serve as the new Executive Director for the organization which represents 30 national scenic and historic trails.

Valerie currently is Corporate and Foundation Stewardship Director for Baltimore's People and Parks Foundation. In nine years with the organization, she has served in progressively more responsible positions, including Director of Community Greening and Community Grants Program Director.

She has focused on creative initiatives that catalyze neighborhood revitalization through forestry, green infrastructure, park and trail creation, and other projects. She has been leading an effort with Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks to develop its new partnership model to better support park stewardship and advocacy.

Valerie will assume the position of PNTS Executive Director effective August 17. She will succeed Gary Werner, who retired in February after nearly 30 years in the role, and Interim Executive Director Karen Crossley, who has served since Gary's departure. Valerie will establish the Partnership's new offices in Washington, D.C.

She was the unanimous choice of a Partnership search committee and the recommendation was approved by the PNTS Board of Directors.

"We believe that Ms. Rupp is an ideal fit for the organization," said PNTS President Barney Scout Mann. "She has significant fundraising and administrative experience that will allow her to effectively address two significant and immediate needs of the Partnership. In addition, she brings promising skills and enthusiasm for increased community involvement and diversity within the Partnership and the greater trails community. She is experienced and passionate about working with diverse and underserved populations to make parks and trails accessible to all, and to foster real community ownership."

"I am excited about the opportunity to work with so many trail leaders in furthering the work of the trails community across the nation," Valerie said. "It is a unique and interesting time for PNTS, with great opportunities to take intentional steps to achieve ambitious goals for some incredible organizations. I feel confident that my strategic and collaborative approach to leadership, my ability to raise and diversify funds and manage partnerships, and my experience in inclusive community engagement and communications will allow me to elevate the profile and impact of PNTS."

Her hiring followed an 18-month search headed by a specially appointed Executive Director Transition Task Force chaired by Liz Bergeron, a former PNTS President and Executive Director & CEO of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). Other members of the task force included Christy Corzine, a former PNTS Board member and former PCTA Board member; Bill Martin, a member of the PNTS Trail Leaders Council (TLC) and past president of the Oregon-California Trails Association; Elizabeth Stewart, former PNTS Board and TLC representative for the Anza Trail Foundation; and Mike Wollmer, a PNTS Board member and TLC representative and Executive Director of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Barney Mann served as an ex officio member.

Valerie holds twin bachelor's degrees in history and communications from Shippensburg University and a Master's in public administration from the University of Baltimore, where she was selected the top graduate student for academic achievement and civic leadership. She also earned a Certificate in Volunteer Management from Carroll County Community College.

Prior to joining the Parks and People Foundation, she served as Development Director for the Women's Law Center of Maryland, as Development Associate for the Baltimore Museum of Industry, and Volunteer Coordinator for Volunteer Maryland, an AmeriCorps program. Valerie received a Governor's Citation for mobilizing thousands of community volunteers through Volunteer Maryland.

At the Women's Law Center, Valerie led marketing and communications including publications, and launched an organizational re-branding campaign while creating a fundraising culture. During her tenure at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, she increased major gifts to the annual fund by 300% and managed booking, scheduling, and staffing for 90,000 school visitors each year.

While at Parks and People, Valerie has led programs and projects with total annual budgets of \$3 million and managed a staff of eight. She also secured more than \$3 million in private and public grants and contracts and developed public and private partnerships to enhance diversity, inclusivity, and environmental justice in Baltimore. Valerie has experience in managing promotions and events, working with a variety of committees and teams, facilitating public stakeholder groups both for and with local and federal government, and developing and managing high-level projects and initiatives. She is frequently recruited as a collaborator or an investigator focused on partnership and engagement strategies for grant-funded, research projects led by premier universities and Federal agencies.

For more information about the Partnership, visit [www.PNTS.org](http://www.PNTS.org). The mission of the Partnership is to "empower, inspire, and strengthen public and private partners to develop, preserve, promote, and sustain the national scenic and historic trails."



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## Summer Along the NPNHT Auto Tour Routes & Side Trips



Wallowa Valley, Enterprise, OR  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Canyon Creek, Laurel, Montana  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Near Rygate, Montana  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Frenchman Creek, Malta, Montana  
National Park Service photo, Stephanie Martin



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