



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report*

Fall 2020

Administrator’s Corner

The Nez Perce (NeeMe-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Never Looked So Good.

Find your perfect trip on the NPNHT. Planning the trip is half the fun. Dress appropriately, including the right hat for chilly weather. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Always take plenty of water and the kids’ favorite snacks and carry an extra layer of clothing in case of inclement weather, including a lightweight rain poncho.

Since March we have witnessed unprecedented change and adaptive flexibility. Our annual National Trail Administrator's Meeting shifted to a virtual format instead of the planned location in Missoula, MT. I learned to use another tool, ZOOM, for communicating across agencies and the nation! This new virtual environment we've found ourselves in can be frustrating and also exciting.

Even when the fabric of daily life is being tested, the common thread of our commitment to the NPNHT remains strong. We continue to be amazed at how our partners stepped up to meet the Covid-19 challenge and provide ongoing trail support from trail maintenance work to presentations via Social Media.

A big shout out to our two new Virtual Student Interns who we are so excited to work with on social media, improving our website, and producing our first NPNHT Toolbox and a new booklet for High Potential Historic Sites and Route Segments. Read more about our students Emory Padgett and Valda Black on page 17. Our ability to work with these two great students was made possible by the Virtual Student Federal Service and allows for us to work with these outstanding students for up to 10 hours a week. We began working as a team early in September and will continue into May 2021. I'm excited to see how we can leverage this internship to enhance our services to our NPNHT friends.

We encourage everyone to chart a path through these uncertain waters for the rest of 2020. Identify ways to weather these extraordinary times. Bob Dylan’s 1960s song, “The Times They Are-a-Changing,” resonates with renewed force as we continue to stare down a global pandemic, witness movements for social change, and note historical reckonings and inflection points. The song vibrates with new meaning. Perhaps that’s because the song itself doesn’t look to the past-rather, it’s an anthem of hope for a future where change is always possible. Let’s all hope for those better days ahead. Stay safe and well.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



U.S. Forest Service photo



November
2020



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Releases Updates of Auto Tour Brochures

The staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is proud to announce the release of updated versions of all of the Experience the NPNHT Auto Tour brochures.

Over the course to the past year we undertook a review of all of these brochures, including a significant revision of Auto Tour 2 between Orofino, ID, and Lolo, MT.

As part of the revision of Auto Tour 2 we added a great deal of additional information about several stops, an added adventurous routes and a few short hiking opportunities. We also added more information about the Lolo Motorway Rugged section. In partnership with our friends at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail we also included information about that trail, since in many parts of this segment we share a similar corridor.

Additional stops and adventurous routes and side trips were also added to other NPNHT Auto Tour brochures, are designed to enhance our visitors experience.

The revision of these brochure started in the summer of 2019. We have received significant feedback from a number of partners and would like to thank all those who provided content and comments and helped to make these accurate, informative, and user-friendly brochures which will guide visitors along the NPNHT for years to come.

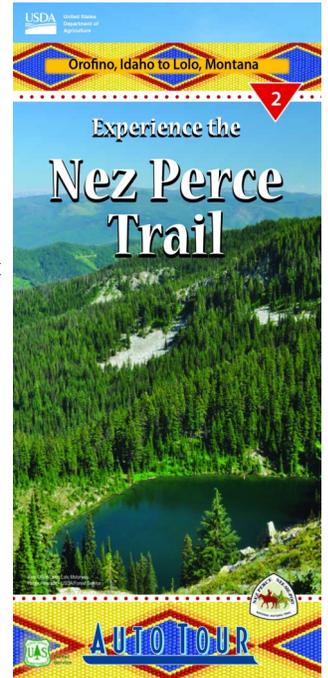
We take great care in making updates, and it is a process that includes multiple reviews from more than 25-30 Trail partners. We also reached out to staff with the Washington State and Montana State Historical societies to procure and add additional images and content.

Special thanks to Angel Sobotta with the Nez Perce Tribe Language Program for all of her support and comments particularly related to Nez Perce language.

And last but certainly not least, thanks to Donna Sullenger (profile below) with the U.S. Forest Service Center for Design and Interpretation. Without her support and expertise these publications would not be possible.

The entire family of these updated NPNHT Auto Tour brochures, will very soon be available for download from the NPNHT website after we ensure they are accessible for all internet users. They should be available for [download from the NPNHT website](#) by late November. Hard copies of these brochures have already been distributed and are available at multiple Federal, State, County, and private visitor locations along the entire NPNHT. Be well and be safe while traveling the Trail.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



Donna Sullenger started working on projects for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) in 2016. In that time, she produced several amazing NPNHT Desk Planners, Posters, and Post Cards. She recently assisted the Trail staff with a MAJOR overhaul of the Auto Tour 2 brochure and a number of updates to the other Auto Tour brochures. The staff of the NPNHT would like to thank Donna for all her time and dedication to the NPNHT and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors! As she prepares for retirement in a couple of months, here is a look back at an amazing career. All the best Donna and Happy Trails!!

As a single mom raising two boys, Donna was thrilled to begin work in June 1991 on a two year Not To Exceed (NTE) Mail and File Clerk position on the Shoshone National Forest. By mid-1993 she was a permanent U.S. Forest Service employee. In 1994, the Public Affairs Department on the Forest assumed her position and, seeing she had artistic and computer skills, added graphic design projects to assigned duties. Around 1998, Donna was asked to rework some illustrations and set up all the panels for fabrication along the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway.

It was her first “dive” into interpretive graphic design. In 2000 she became a “satellite tech” for the new Center for Design and Interpretation (CDI) organization, devoting 25% of her time to their projects. The next 10 years that percentage increased to 75%. In 2010 she became CDI’s official Graphic Designer. In her time with CDI she has designed hundreds of interpretive panels, created a plethora of illustrations, edited videos, and created animations. Working with Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) afforded her the opportunity to expand her skills producing annual desk planners, posters, and updating the Trail’s Auto Tour Brochures.

Retirement will afford her more family time, especially with grandchildren, going back to painting on canvas while still working digitally, working with the Forest Service in the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) program, time with horse and dog on trails, and working on all those house improvement projects put off until now. Remember this incredible public servant when you travel the Trail and use the brochures she helped create!



Sod forts of the Bitterroot Valley

In 1877, a controversial treaty with the United States government forced the Nez Perce people to give up their homeland in Eastern Oregon and North Central Idaho and move onto a nearby reservation. A portion of the tribe refuted the terms of the treaty and engaged with government troops, hastily leaving their native lands behind.

Led by several Nez Perce Chiefs including Looking Glass and Joseph, they traveled across the Lolo Trail and entered the Bitterroot Valley in July of 1877. Pockets of white settlers in the largely unsettled valley feared being caught up in the dispute, and several make-shift forts sprang up to serve as temporary shelter. Settlers near Stevensville shored up Fort Owen, an earlier adobe trading post that had fallen into disrepair. A portion of the north wall had collapsed, and green sod was cut by the settlers to replace the fallen adobes. The fort was dubbed Fort Brave, because the people waiting out the siege there felt so secure behind the sturdy adobe walls.



Fort Owen Photo Courtesy Ravalli Co. Museum

Two smaller communities south of Stevensville were located on Willow Creek, where the town of Corvallis is located, and Skalkaho, where Hamilton is situated today. Having no fortifications nearby to rely upon, residents of these two fledgling communities decided to build temporary fortifications using sod from the surrounding fields.

At the site of Fort Skalkaho, a handful of early pioneers had already proved up on their property, and by 1871, had joined forces in order to build a continuous log fence that snaked around 1,100 acres of prime stock land. This enclosure was used primarily to keep everybody's cattle from straying off, and it was known locally as the Big Corral. It occupied an area that now forms the entire south end, plus a large part of the east side, of Hamilton.

One of the partners in the Big Corral was John B. Catlin, a Civil War veteran who had accompanied Sherman on his famous March to the Sea. Catlin had the requisite military experience to supervise the construction of Fort Skalkaho when the threat of the Nez Perce conflict appeared imminent.

The three fortifications came to be known locally as Fort Brave, formerly Fort Owen, where reportedly 258 women and children were cooped up with ten or twelve well-armed men to protect them; Fort Skedaddle at Corvallis, where a trial shot with a 45-caliber rifle had managed to penetrate only 10 inches into the sod wall; and Fort Run at Skalkaho, where the settlers actually ran for the gates of the fort upon its completion. It was reported that as many people sought refuge in the two hastily built sod forts as the number hunkered down at Fort Owen. Both of the sod forts were built along similar specifications. Their dimensions were about 100 feet square, 12 feet high, with a base 3 feet thick, continuing up to the port holes about 4 feet, and from there gradually decreasing until they were only 18 inches at the top of the wall. Presumably, rough timbers and logs were framed up for the gate openings.

Fort Skedaddle was said to have gotten its name from the fact that it was occupied mainly by recent Missouri transplants, who had learned to get up and skedaddle at a moment's notice during the Civil War. A well was dug inside the walls to provide water in case of a protracted siege, and a small creek ran through the middle of Fort Run, which, according to one report, is said to have featured a surrounding moat. One obvious drawback at Fort Run was the proximity of a large hill to the east, where the Nez Perce launched their arrows toward the sod walls just to impress the frightened settlers.

The sodbusters soon realized that the Indians could have just as easily cut off their water supply if they had really meant to do them any harm. Still, it should be kept in mind that General Custer had made his infamous Last Stand at the Little Big Horn just the year before, and there may have been a real sense of fear for those recent settlers who were unfamiliar with the plight of the Nez Perce.

A fourth fort should be mentioned here, though it was really nothing more than a scattering of rifle pits dug in behind log and earth embankments. Fort Fizzle was located in Lolo Canyon, where the military laid in wait for the Nez Perce as they fled from Idaho into Montana. Father Ravalli, who had reestablished the mission at Stevensville, had urged his friend Chief Charlo to encourage the Nez Perce to pass peacefully through the valley.

While the two sides negotiated a way out of a full-blown conflict, Chief Charlo, with 20 of his warriors, met and advised the Nez Perce chiefs that if they meant to wage war in the Bitter Root they would have to contend with the Salish, who would align themselves with the settlers.

The Nez Perce readily agreed to the terms of the truce and were granted permission to travel peaceably through the valley. Although these two tribes were on friendly terms, a time-tested protocol had determined that asking permission was still the polite thing to do. This cordial arrangement of free passage had been going on for many years between the various mountain tribes. Historically, the Bitterroot Valley had never been a homeland to the Nez Perce Indians; however, they often traded goods and hunted buffalo with the Salish, and a number of intermarriages had occurred between the two tribes throughout the generations. There was a band of Nez Perce who lived in the valley.



While the U.S. military was considering its options in Lolo Canyon, the wily Nez Perce stoked up their campfires to make a good showing, while the women and children quietly circumnavigated the soldiers in the middle of the night, secretly entering the canyon below Fort Fizzle. In the morning the Nez Perce warriors took to a ridge and passed by uncontested. After being outflanked by the Nez Perce at Fort Fizzle, the troops returned to Fort Missoula, leaving the scrappy Bitterroot residents unprotected and fending for themselves.

For years, many of the longtime settlers of the valley had dealt with the Nez Perce and other tribes passing through the region on their way to and from their buffalo hunts and were on friendly terms with them. Most of these people chose to remain on their properties and went unharmed and unmolested throughout the conflict.

The Nez Perce made their first camp about 8 miles south of Lolo near the ranch of J. P. McClain, without incident. The next day, they moved further south and a little west of Stevensville, making their second camp near the home of Chief Charlo. Chief Looking Glass and some of his warriors visited Charlo to show their good intentions and to ask where they could set up their camp. Charlo pointed out a suitable location situated nearby, and the Nez Perce stayed in the vicinity of Stevensville for two days, where the local merchants kept their stores open and enjoyed a thriving business with the roving Indians.

As the Nez Perce traversed the lower portion of the Bitterroot Valley, they stayed mainly on the unpopulated west side of the river; however, Chief Joseph, with a band of about 50 warriors, came to Corvallis and visited Fort Skedaddle. They showed a considerable amount of curiosity about the sod fort but demonstrated no disposition whatsoever to molest any person or property. Even so, they were not allowed to inspect the interior of the fort.

Reportedly, when the Indians asked if any of the local merchants might be willing to trade for ammunition, their request was firmly denied. Other reports seem to contradict this, relating that as the Nez Perce passed the sod and log stockades that had been built to protect women and children; they called at the homes of several settlers, and traded freely at the local stores. Fort Skedaddle at Corvallis had been built in just 10 days, beginning on the 9th of July. Twelve married men with their teams, and 6 single men, selected a site on the property of Charles Hawley. The sod was obtained in the fields of Mr. Hawley, Elijah Chaffin, Jack Slack and Joseph Hull. A single opening was made on the east side of the fort, and it was closed in with a door that was made of heavy planks 6 inches thick.

More than a dozen Corvallis families lived in tents or built wooden shanties for temporary housing, with others sleeping under their wagons. Another dozen or so well-armed single men joined the settlers and served as lookouts and guards. The settlers stayed in the fort with no sickness or complaints for a full week after the Battle of the Big Hole, which occurred on August 9th.

An account in a diary written by Edward P. Hardin, who was a member of General Gibbon's command, states that on August 5th, they "Nooned at Corvallis for three hours 11 to 2. Had a nice sod fort at Corvallis. Passed a very nice earthwork about 10 miles from Corvallis." The hastily built sod fortifications that Hardin is speaking about were, of course, Skedaddle and Run.

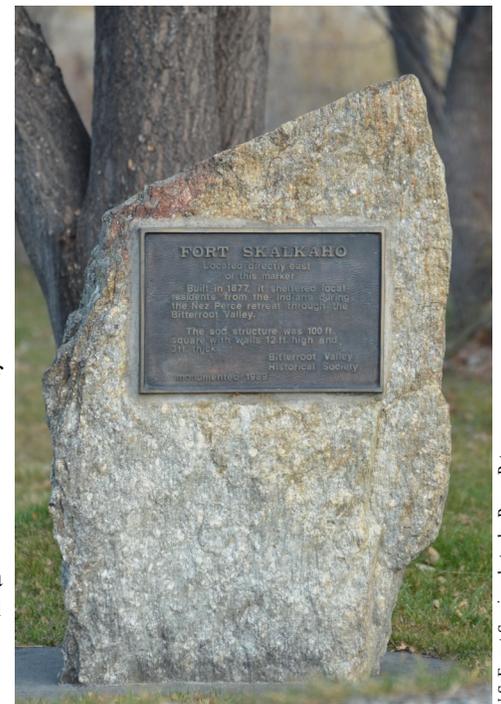
Fort Skedaddle at Corvallis stood until the early 1890s, when it was finally torn down. The site is located on the East Side Highway, just north of town, in the old Ravalli Electric Co-op parking lot. Reportedly, when the fields of Fort Run at Skalkaho were plowed up in 1909, a good number of arrowheads and horseshoes were uncovered at the site. Unfortunately, they were all given away as souvenirs of the battle that never actually occurred.

The fort sat in an open pasture near the east corner of Kurtz Lane and Golf Course Road. All of the sites mentioned here are represented with interpretive signs or commemorative plaques today. Fort Fizzle is a U.S. Forest Service site located on U. S. Highway 12, with interesting and informative interpretations. Fort Owen is a state park with the main barracks fully restored. So far, I have been unable to find a single photo of the sod forts as they stood. Both sites are commemorated with solid slabs of local granite, each with a bronze plaque attached, proudly signifying their proper place in the local lore of Bitterroot Valley history (Photo right).

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. You can also find them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

By Wm. W. Whitfield Ravalli County Museum August 8, 2020

For additional information 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/nphnt/home/?cid=fsbdev3_055663.



U.S. Forest Service photo by Roger Peterson



#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.

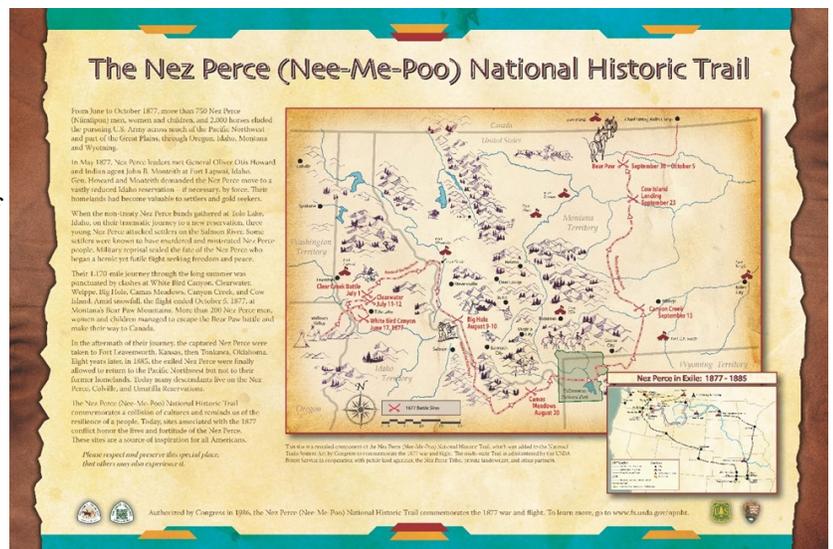
As state and local guidelines evolve, we can all be a part of making the outdoors a safe place to be. Following the #RecreateResponsibly guidelines will keep everyone safe as we enjoy our parks, waters, trails, and forests. Learn more: <https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/>



High Pressure Laminate NPNHT Standard Trail Interpretive Signs – Get Yours Now!

The Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust (BRCHT) is working through a Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) to install basic NPNHT interpretive signs throughout the Bitterroot Valley. This beautiful and informative sign, prepared by the NPNHT Forest Service staff, provides an overview of the NPNHT and has been through consultation.

This project emerged from the understanding that there is a lack of awareness in Bitterroot Valley communities about the route of the Nez Perce trail as well as the story behind the Flight of 1877. To build awareness for locals and serve visitors alike, we are reaching out to local entities who have a relationship to the Trail and are working with them to see the 24x36 interpretive panels installed. Once the partners have installed the sign, we can continue to build the relationship to further interpret the the cultural heritage of the trail and its importance to the living community of Nez Perce people and all Americans.



Through an agreement, the NPNHT and BRCHT are teaming up to offer a 24"x36" high-pressure laminate sign at no cost if the host organization provides a pedestal and installation labor which will provide matching funds for the CCSA. We are making one large order which will give us the best prices. All signs and pedestals will ship to one location to save costs on freight (the CCSA will pay freight charges), so participating organizations will need to be prepared to fetch the signs from a location in the Bitterroot Valley in late winter or early spring.

Existing plans call for signs to be installed at: Sacajawea's Rest Park (Bitterroot Heritage Civic Group, Darby), River Park (City of Hamilton), the Fort Owen area along the multiuse path (Montana State Parks), Ravalli County Museum, and the Bitterroot NF Supervisor's Office - located along the Bitterroot Trail multiuse path. We are also in discussions with the Corvallis School District (location of one of the sod forts built by the community during the Flight of 1877), Victor Park (Victor Park District), and Chief Looking Glass Fishing Access (Montana FWP), among others.

We would like to see as many signs as possible located along the Trail and are willing to help as many organizations obtain signs as funds allow. Please let us know if you are interested in this project. Contact BRCHT President, Kristine Komar, at 406 360-7019 or kk@doublekoutfit.net for more information on the project and costs of pedestals.

This is a great opportunity but comes with a rather unforgiving timeline. Please let us know by December 15, 2020 if you are interested in participating.

Kristine Komar, President, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust



News from the Wallowa Homeland

We are celebrating the completion of major repairs to our Dance Arbor! The beautiful circular structure is at the heart of what we do here at the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland. Since it was built in 1999, it has been a place of reunion and celebration of tradition and heritage. After routine inspectors identified that 18 of the 73 pine and tamarack poles required fortification, we fundraised furiously to find \$19,000 for repairs. Thanks to each of you contributors, the 18 poles now rest on concrete footers that will withstand the test of time. In 2021 the Tamkaliks Celebration will go on into its fourth decade safely and in style, and for that we say “qe'ciyew'yew' thank you”.

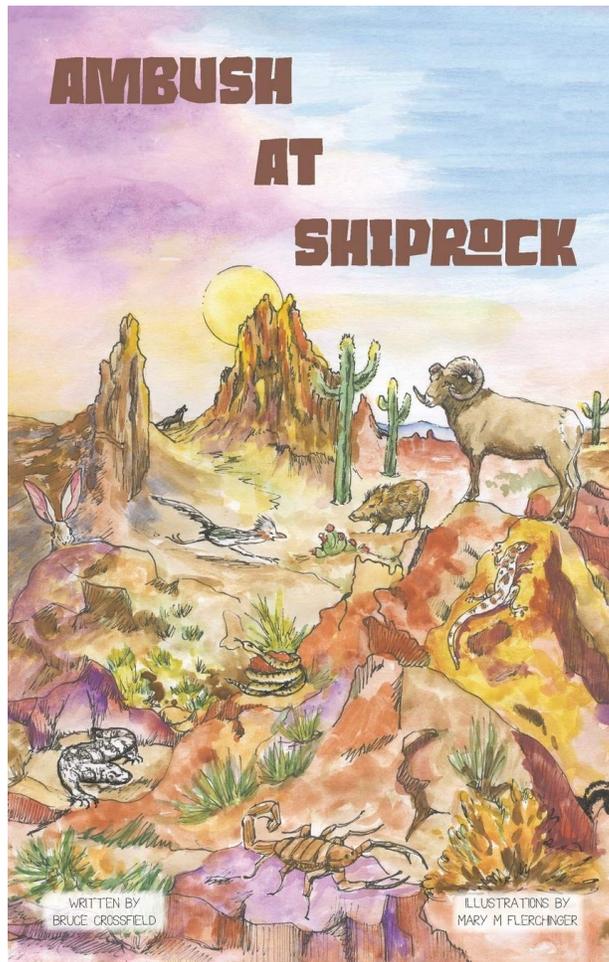
While we celebrate, we also know the Dance Arbor will continue to require expensive, on-going treatment and maintenance. The other 55 poles will inevitably need concrete footers as the wood ages, and we want to be prepared. You can contribute to our Arbor Maintenance [fund here](#). Thank you again to our supporters!

For additional information please visit the [NPWH website](#).

Angela Bombaci and Sara Averbeck, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland



Photo Courtesy of NPWH



Book Highlights the Dangers of Human Trafficking

Local Northwest residents have teamed up to write and illustrate a book for teens about human trafficking. “Ambush at Shiprock” is written by Clarkston, WA, resident Bruce Crossfield. The artwork is done by Mary Flerchinger of Pomeroy, WA, and the book cover is by Susan Petit of Clarkston, WA.

The story follows a high school senior who is half Nez Perce and half Navaho living on the reservation in Shiprock, N.M. The book offers lesson on the dangers of human trafficking as animals come to her rescue.

Natural Resource Manager for the Nez Perce Tribe Aaron Miles, Sr., of Lapwai, ID, praised the book for its depiction of Native American life and culture as well as for teaching critical thinking. The book can be purchased locally at *And Books Too* in Clarkston, WA, or from a variety of sources.

Side Note: Bruce Crossfield is a long-time coach for the boys’ basketball team at Lapwai High School and is now retired.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT



America's National Historic Trails: In the Footsteps of History

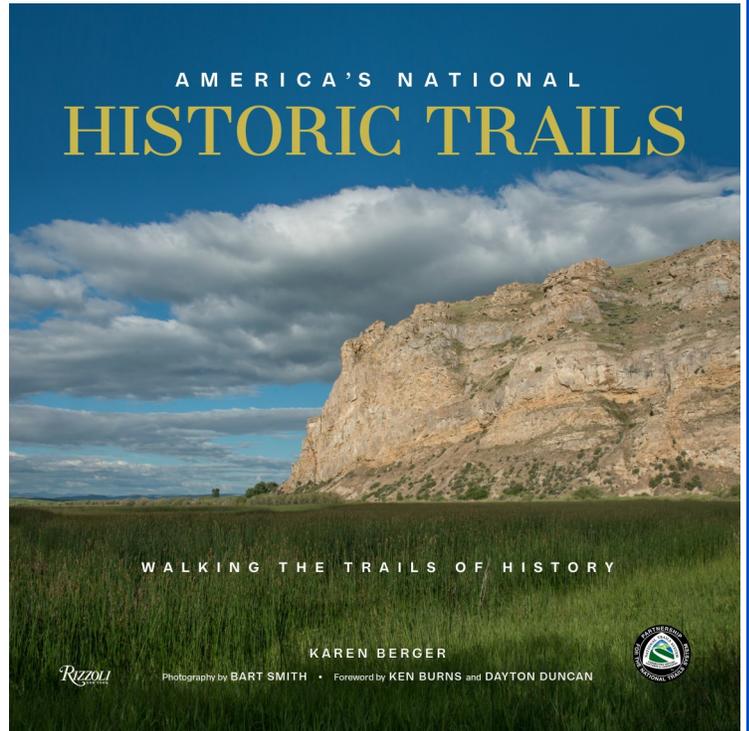
This NEW book went on sale in mid-October 2020. “The national historic trails are 19 strands in a grander tapestry that preserves our country’s history and landscape—through national parks, national monuments, national scenic trails, national historic sites and battlefields, national wildlife refuges, national seashores and recreation areas, and much more. Like the nation itself—a diverse collection of people whose stories connect to tell an epic saga—the historic trails connect those stories to a land epic enough in scale to contain them.”—Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan

From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the trails blazed by the pioneers, lands explored by Lewis and Clark and covered by the Pony Express to the civil rights marches of Selma and Montgomery, AMERICA’S NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS is a gift that celebrates the 19 trails that make up this system. These trails range from 54 miles to more than 5,000 and feature historic and interpretive sites to be explored on foot and sometimes by paddle, sail, bicycle, horse, or car on backcountry roads. Totalling more than 37,000 miles through 42 states, our entire national experience comes to life on these trails—from American Indian history to the

settlement of the colonies, westward expansion, and civil rights—and they are beautifully depicted in this large-format volume with photography by Bart Smith. As author Karen Berger writes in her introduction, “All of [the trails] offer opportunities to experience the varied environments that have played a role in the American narrative. But even more, these trails place us at the intersection of story and landscape. When we touch the wooden walls of a frontier fort, step in the ruts of wagon wheels, look down at a river from a bridge that wasn’t there a hundred years ago, or consider what it would be like to walk, ride a horse, drive a wagon, or march in military formation over an expanse of land, we understand the past in a physical, visceral way. Our forebears passed through these lands for many different reasons: for freedom, for a king, for God, for a protest economic opportunity, for adventure, for war. We all have our reasons, both then and now. The national historic trails give us points of intersection across time and distance—a way to connect ourselves to those who came before through our common humanity and our experience of the land.

About the Author: Karen Berger is the author of 18 other books on hiking. She has hiked more than 18,000 miles all over the world, including thru hikes of the Triple Crown trails (the AT, PCT, and CDT). She is publisher and editor of the award-winning travel website, Buckettripper.com. Photographer Bart Smith is the first person to walk all 11 national scenic trails and 19 national historic trails—more than 35,000 miles of America's landscape. He is the sole photographer of 10 books showcasing America's national trails. Together, Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan have created some of the most acclaimed historical documentaries ever made. The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) connects trail organizations and federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 19 national historic and 11 national scenic trails, within the National Trails System.

America’s National Historic Trails: In the Footsteps of History by Karen Berger with Photographs by Bart Smith and Foreword by Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, in association with the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) Hardcover / 320 pages / 10”x 10”/ 325color photographs \$55.00 U.S. / ISBN: 978-0-8478-6885-8/ Rizzoli New York.



Great American Outdoors Act

Late this summer the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law. This legislation will significantly help address the historically underfunded, multi-billion-dollar deferred maintenance backlog on national public lands. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), America's most important conservation and recreation program, has protected, preserved, and expanded the places you visit in nearly every state and every county, including nearly 1,000 trail projects. This law guarantees that funding is available for future generations to continue to conserve public spaces.

The USDA Forest Service is moving forward with implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, which will enable federal land managers to take aggressive steps to address deferred maintenance and other infrastructure projects on national forests and grasslands.

The Forest Service will use these funds to maximize the benefits experienced by millions of Americans who visit and use their national forests and rangelands. Projects funded by this act will focus on reducing deferred maintenance and other infrastructure projects and thereby improve the conditions and resiliency of our nation's forests for present and future generations.

For more information [please visit](#).



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

When Will Larch Trees Turn Gold?

Before you look forward to fall colors, you need to look back. How deep was the snowpack of the mountains at the beginning of the year, and how hot and dry was the summer? Larches or as some folks call them, Tamaracks drop their needles sooner when stressed by heat and lack of moisture.

Tamaracks change to golds and lose their needles as early as August when an extremely hot and dry summer follows a winter with light precipitation in the mountains. Conversely, a year that starts with deep snowpack before a mild or cold summer tends to produce maximum growth in tamaracks and brings peak colors late in the year.

The Nez Perce name for Tamaracks is *Kimile*. The hardened sap could be chewed as a gum, while sweet syrup was made from the sap itself. The process involved leaving the sap hollowed portions of the trunk allowing the natural evaporation to concentrate the sugar. Some say the sap could be used to plaster hair into place. This tree was first observed by Lewis and Clark in the Bitterroots in September 1805.

It's a bit of science and a bit of a guessing game. The easiest way to know when Tamarcks will turn gold is to call a local Forest Service Ranger Station or Supervisor's Office. The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and accompanying Auto Tour Route is abundant with vibrant fall colors. Take a leisurely fall hike or tour and enjoy the earth's beauty. Bundle up and keep warm as it appears we are headed into a La Nina winter pattern in the northern part of the United States.

Please take recommended safety precautions when considering travel and check the availability of services including cell service and weather before you go. [For more information](#).

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT



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





Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Fall 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



November 2020—National Native American Heritage Month

November 11, 2020 —Veterans Day Weekend (fees waived at National Public Lands Agencies)

March 2021—[Hike the Hill Virtual Workshop](#)—Dates and additional information coming soon

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!!

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

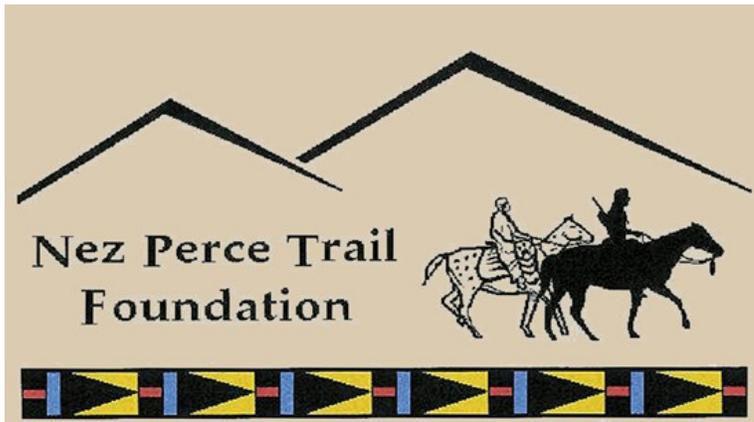


Along the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway, near Cody, WY

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



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



As the pandemic health crisis continues, the negative effects of the shutdown are being felt worldwide. Like so many other non-profit organizations, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation has felt the impact of Covid-19, but from time to time a story emerges that is truly inspiring.

Before proceeding I would first ask that you take a few moments to explore the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) website at www.nezperctrail.net. I might first mention that the Foundation's mission is to Preserve, Protect, and Commemorate the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Our web site is designed to keep our supporters and general public informed as to our most

recent activities and hopefully provide everyone with research and historical information that will be of value to those who are especially interested in the events surrounding the Nez Perce War of 1877.

If you take time to view the In Memoriam Tab, you will notice a listing of those who have passed and have been recognized as either supporters of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation or played an important role in the historical and cultural perpetuation of the Nez Perce people. The most recent memoriam listing is that of Mr. Norman Reeves. I might first point out that over the years, the membership of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation has included individuals from out of country. Those countries would include Canada, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Australia, and the list goes on. Mr. Norman Reeves, who was a resident of Ipswich, United Kingdom, recently passed away. Friends and family of Norman contacted the NPTF and wished to make a donation to the Foundation in loving memory of Norman. Norman traveled to the Pacific Northwest, when possible, to visit with family and became familiar with Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce culture and thus began an extended period of his life in reading and researching more about Chief Joseph. Norman was particularly taken back by the eloquence and thoughtfulness of Chief Joseph's words. To say the least, Norman was inspired by Chief Joseph. As mentioned by Norman's friends, Chief Joseph's words inspired him in life and gave him comfort in his final days. For those that come to know of the life of Chief Joseph and the honesty of his words can only question why his pleas for equality, fairness, and compassion fell upon deaf ears.

The famous Western photographer, Edward Curtis, had the opportunity to capture the photo image of Chief Joseph in Seattle. Curtis wrote, "Perhaps he was not quite what we in our minds had pictured him, "he wrote, "but still I think he was one of the greatest men that has ever lived." Obviously, Norman Reeves felt the same way and it was the Foundation's privilege to recognize Norman, who from a distant land, was inspired by a man of wisdom, honor, and honesty.

Closer to home, another friend and supporter of the Foundation, Mrs. Sally Seymour, wife of NPTF Director Dick Seymour recently passed away. Sally was an avid reader and had been an equal partner, with her husband Dick, in their Appaloosa breeding program. Sally and her husband Dick called Wallowa, OR, home for many years. I'm sure the memory of Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce Wallowa band, and their well-known equine breeding reputation was never forgotten by Sally.

Once again I encourage you to visit the Nez Perce Trail Foundation website at www.nezperctrail.net and in the meantime be careful and stay safe.

Jim Zimmerman
President, NPTF
www.nezperctrail.net

In Memoriam

Give the Gift of Remembrance to the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

DONATE a Bequest

A Generous Gift in Honor of Your Loved One





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

Winter hours have begun at Nez Perce National Historical Park. The visitor center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. PDT Tuesday through Saturday. Park sites, including the Spalding Picnic Area, remain open 7 days a week for visitors to explore.

While at the Park this fall, don't forget to check out the new exhibits on display in the museum. The new exhibits are the first steps in a complete museum redesign. By rotating items on display the park can assess their condition and plan for the future. New exhibits feature items from the Spalding Allen Collection, drums, children's objects, and more.



Photos Courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

In early October, the Park held an all employee workday to remove lichen from the historic rock wall which surrounds the Spalding Cemetery. Lichen threatens the integrity of the wall. The work done this fall will help ensure the wall remains stable for future generations (Photo left).

The Park would like to thank Dave Nichols and Barbara Michel for their time and expertise this summer while on detail. Both Dave and Barbara have returned to Mojave National Preserve and we welcome Chief of Resources Jason Lyon back from his detail at the Pacific West Regional Office.

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.

Kelly Kincaid. Administrative Assistant, Nez Perce National Historical Park

Historic Routes Project Receives Regional and National Recognition

It is our EXTREME pleasure to announce that the Historic Routes Team on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is not only a recipient of the Northern Regional Forester's Award for Fostering Volunteerism and Partnerships but is also recipient of the U.S. Forest Service Chief's Award and the Undersecretary of Agriculture's Award. This is a great example of far-fetched visions coming to life through innovation, creativity, and energy of a high-powered team. Led by Chrysann Jaeger and fueled by a long list of folks, this project is the embodiment of customer service, innovation, and interconnectedness. We have highlighted this project in previous NPNHT Progress Reports.

The Historic Routes project uniquely integrates technology, history, preservation, stewardship, and local community and business involvement, and provides a consistent source for public information and service in areas with limited connectivity and at times when regular visitor services may be unavailable (ex. after regular business hours or on weekends). The project would not have been possible without the dedication and creativity of the team members involved.

Many people, including the staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and other communities, contributed to this project's success. Information about these sites were included in our NPNHT revised Auto Tour 2 brochure, highlighted earlier is this report. Additional information can be found in the [Summer 2020 NPNHT Progress Report](#).





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

As summer gives way to fall and a feel of winter already in the air, the Big Hole National Battlefield visitor center has moved to a winter schedule. The visitor center is now open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and the rest of the Park (battlefield, trails, picnic area etc.) currently remains open seven days a week, from sunrise to sunset.

In a very non-traditional summer, our visitation remained high. We were very happy to have Pete Wilson, Nez Perce cultural demonstrator and National Park Service (NPS) Park Ranger from Lapwai, ID, come to assist with the busy July 4th weekend and again on September 5-6 and September 19-20. Pete is always a big hit with our visitors as he discusses his culture and traditions and creates beautiful cultural items.

Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



The 143rd Annual Commemorations, to honor and remember those who were here in 1877, were held on August 8 for Big Hole(see photo) and October 3 for Bear Paw. At Big Hole, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the event was moved from the encampment area to in front of the visitor center. For both events, the weather was warm, there was a great turnout, and it was a great example of everyone sharing, giving, and caring about each other. (Photo left)

summer seasonal park rangers Owen Ellis and Elizabeth Angell, who did a wonderful job for us this summer, and welcomed in Suzanne Tarkalich, (Photo right) our long term SCA (Student Conservation Association) Education Specialist. Suzanne came on board October 7th and will be developing educational curriculum specific to our site and helping us at the front desk on the days we are open.

Update from Maintenance/Resource:

Maintenance staff at Big Hole National Battlefield are working on winterizing the Park. Placing posts to mark utilities that will soon be buried under snow, installing a snow fence near the entrance road and preparing the Parks housing units and fleet vehicles for the long winter. We are also preparing for numerous days of snow removal operations to keep the Park's entrance road accessible.

While waiting on winter, maintenance staff is working on project planning for upgrades to the Park's wastewater system, fire suppression systems, and housing roofs all to be completed in the next few years.

A Montana Conservation Corps crew was able to do a short hitch at the Park and helped remove encroaching vegetation on the hillsides and assist with the continued fight to remove hazard trees from the trail corridors. Staff will continue to thoroughly clean and sanitize the staff and visitor use areas in the Park due to COVID-19.

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

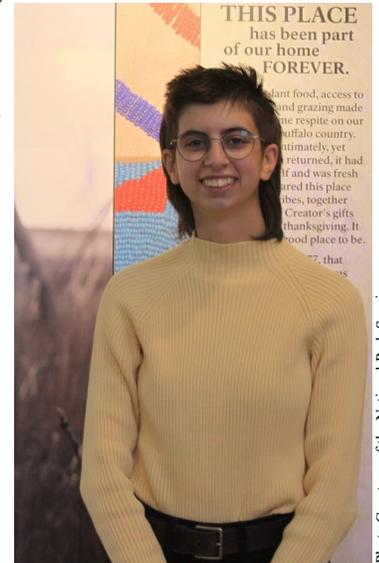


Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service





News From the Forest Service

Lolo National Forest

Providing a Safer, More Sustainable Campground:

Working to keep visitors safe along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail with the following work at the Lee Creek Campground.

A priority of the Forest Service is to enhance recreation opportunities and maintain infrastructure such as campgrounds. In doing so, campgrounds are evaluated annually for potential hazards to forest visitors. When identified, hazardous conditions are reduced by using acceptable methods to maintain or improve recreation values and retain campground aesthetics. Lee Creek Campground has reached potentially hazardous conditions for a variety of reasons, and is undergoing treatment to provide for a safer, more sustainable campground.

Why?

All living things have a lifespan, including trees. Many Lodgepole Pine trees within Lee Creek Campground are in a state of decline due to disease-infection, insect attack, and advanced age.

The main causes are Lodgepole Dwarf Mistletoe, Mountain Pine Beetle, and Western Gall Rust. The effects of these ailments have caused structurally weakened trees that pose considerable hazard to campers and campground infrastructure.

A major wind event in 2016 proved just how unstable things had become, resulting in substantial blowdown and damage to campground infrastructure. Since then there has been continued incidental blowdown where unstable trees remain.

What to Expect:

Visitors can expect to see extensive removal of damaged or weakened Lodgepole Pine trees. This will not only mitigate the spread of disease throughout the campground and lower the risk of blowdown, but will allow for the growth of a healthy understory and increased vigor of existing Douglas Fir and Western Larch tree species.

Removal of disease-infected Lodgepole Pine began this past spring while the campground was closed. Work was conducted by the Missoula Ranger District Fire Crew and the Lolo Hotshots. Additional Lodgepole Pine removal will take place in the coming fall and winter. Conducting this work outside the summer season leaves the opportunity for residual trees to respond to the changed conditions prior to summer use by campers.



U.S. Forest Service photo

restoration and bioengineering following the dam removal this summer.

The removal of trees will indeed change the appearance of the campground in the short term.

However, the long term effects of removing disease-infected Lodgepole Pine in conjunction with the planting and associated growth of healthy Lodgepole Pine, Douglas Fir, and Western Larch will create a scenic campground with more tree diversity, all while providing a safe environment for forest visitors.

These actions are also supporting other positive work on our public lands. Missoula Ranger District partnered with Trout Unlimited to transport cut trees and slash from Lee Creek Campground to the lower Rattlesnake Dam site in Missoula. The material will be used for

Katie Knotek, Recreation Staff, Lolo National Forest



U.S. Forest Service photo

Dense clumps in tree branches, called "brooms" or "witches' brooms", form in response to Dwarf Mistletoe infection. This photo was taken at Lee Creek Campground before treatment.





News From the Forest Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

During the summer quarter the Lolo Pass Visitor Center was able to partially reopen, providing service and sales through the front window. Staff at Lolo Pass were able to continue to provide gift shop sales, information on the area’s history and recreational opportunities, and clean and safe restrooms. The visitor center has been providing window service 5 days a week with bathrooms being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

While in-person interpretive programs and demonstrations were not able to take place this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Discover Your Northwest has continued producing a series of vignettes featuring their Artist in Residence program. Throughout the summer the pandemic and local spikes of cases have made this project more challenging. However, DYNW, their student filmmakers, and the featured Nez Perce artists have navigated these obstacles to make significant progress towards having a finished product.

When the film “The Creators” is completed it will feature a minimum of four artists in a series of segments. Artists featured will present original art and the processes they use to create it. Some of the featured art will be traditional horse masks, modern and traditional beadwork, as well as dancing and storytelling. Additionally, artist Kevin Peters will be featured telling the Nez Perce creation story, “The Heart of the Monster.”

With filming nearly complete and the editing process beginning the end of October, “The Creators” should be ready for viewing by early to mid-December as an early Christmas present. We will have an advance online screening presentation for our partners, participating artists, and their families. We also plan to make the film available to stream on Facebook and on the future Discover Your Northwest – Lolo Pass YouTube page. We plan to continue to find innovative ways to create and share interpretive material about the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and other local features until we return to a more normal state of operation and beyond. We’re looking forward to resuming in person presentations and talks hopefully next season!

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



Mikhaila Thompson (center left) is interviewed by student filmmakers Brandon McHone and Preston Amerman and DYNW employee Sacha Wells.



Roger Amerman showing his traditional horse masks.



Kevin Peters (right) discussing his painting and drawing with visitors at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center in 2019. Kevin will tell the story of “The Heart of the Monster” in the upcoming film “The Creators”.



New Faces Along the Trail:



U.S. Forest Service photo

Marty Mitzkus New Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Deputy Forest Supervisor

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is pleased to announce that Marty Mitzkus has accepted the permanent position as Deputy Forest Supervisor following a competitive application process. Mitzkus served in this position in a temporary role starting in March before transition directly into the permanent position in late June.

“I have served in various leadership roles at different levels in the Forest Service, from remote field locations to the Supervisor's Office, throughout the Northern Rockies. I am looking forward to the next stage of my career on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests,” said Mitzkus. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue working with our partners and communities as the permanent Deputy Forest

Supervisor. I am looking forward to the future and to us accomplishing important work on the forest that furthers our agency’s mission and provides for the needs of our local communities.”

“I am very excited to have Marty working here permanently and appreciate his excellent relationship-building skills and leadership experience,” said Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor Cheryl Probert. “His skills and experience have been and will continue to be extremely valuable on our Forest, especially as we transition into wildfire season.”

Mitzkus has worked for both the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service during his federal career, holding several jobs in firefighting and fire management, and has held various leadership roles prior to his appointment as Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Deputy Supervisor. Most recently, Mitzkus was the Fire, Fuels, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Staff Officer on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest in his home state of Montana.

Farley Selected as Scenic and Historic Trails Lead for the Bureau of Land Management

Carin Farley is currently the Monument Manager for Kasha-Katuwe National Monument and El Malpais NCA out of the Rio Puerco Field Office in Albuquerque, NM. During her tenure she has improved relationships with management partners, planned for safe and sustainable solutions on a highly visited Recreation Trail and implemented BLM’s first timed ticketed entry through Recreation.gov to address capacity issues and limit exposure to staff and the public during the pandemic.

Before coming to work for the Bureau of Land Management, Carin served as a Visitor and Resource Protection Ranger with the National Park Service for more than 21 years.

Duty stations include Rocky Mountain National Park (NP), several parks in the Southwest, Great Smoky Mountains NP, and Lake Clark NP & Preserve in Alaska. Much of her time was spent in the field working on trails and wilderness issues.

Most recently, Carin served in a two-year detail as the Chief Ranger for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT). From her time on the AT and working with the Continental Divide Trail as Monument Manager, she understands the complexities of the National Trails System, as well as the extraordinary opportunity to connect all people to our public lands through trails. Through inter-agency partnerships, collaboration, and policy Carin has excelled at bringing groups together through commonly defined intentions.

Carin has a bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management with a minor in Native American Studies from Humboldt State University. She is a single mom to a 5-year-old daughter, and they are looking forward to this next adventure.



Photo Courtesy of the BLM



New Faces Along the Trail:



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Cannella Selected as National Park Service National Trails and Rivers Systems Program Manager

John Cannella was recently selected as the new National Park Service (NPS) National Trails and Rivers Systems program manager. Some of you know and have worked with John for years and most recently in his 6-month detail filling in behind Rita Hennessey who retired last December. John brings a great depth of knowledge, experience, and passion about the NPS, our national special area systems, our partners, and the challenges and opportunities facing our Rivers and Trails systems.

John grew up in northern New York state spending time in nearby woods, experiencing the streams and lakes of the area, and listening to his grandfather's stories, especially the ones relaying time in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Over the last two decades John has been in the Southwest, where he joined the NPS in 2004.

For almost 12 years, he has been working with a range of partners and colleagues across the country in different roles tied to the National Trails System. Most recently he has served as the

Deputy Superintendent for the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) NPS, headquartered in Santa Fe, NM. The NTIR administers nine national historic trails (Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, Pony Express, Santa Fe, Old Spanish, Trail of Tears, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trails), manages the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, and leads feasibility studies and other planning for potential and new additions to the National Trails System.

Some of John's accomplishments include developing a partnership across a group of NPS parks to expand GIS utilization through resource sharing, co-founding the National Trails System GIS Network, participating in the interagency National Trails System Administrators Roundtable since it began, serving as the coordinator for the roundtable for the last year, and serving as the acting NPS lead for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails Systems for most of this year.

Prior to joining the NPS, John worked for other federal agencies, universities, and nonprofit organizations. He has held positions focusing on a diversity of topics that have included trails, GIS, natural and cultural resources management, plant ecology, paleoecology, and global change. John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from St. Lawrence University, graduated from the NPS Generating Organizational Advancement and Leadership (GOAL) Academy, and received a Master's in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico. He enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, camping, and playing ice hockey.

John will officially start on November 8, 2020 and will continue to live in and work out of the NPS office in Santa Fe, NM. Please don't hesitate to reach out to him anytime - we are very excited to have him on board soon!



New Faces Along the Trail:

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



Valda Black is one of the new Virtual Interns with Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. Valda is originally from the greater New York City area, where she received her BA and MA in anthropology from CUNY Hunter College. She currently lives in Pullman, WA, where she is a Ph.D. Candidate in archaeology at Washington State University. Valda has a vast background in anthropology ranging from her cultural anthropology work as an undergraduate, archaeology excavations in Belize, Ecuador, and Peru, biological anthropology training at the American Museum of Natural History, and forensic anthropology work with the NYC OCME. Her dissertation looks at the ancient occupation of the Chanka culture in Peru by the Inca Empire. She will focus on the impact the invading Inca forces had on the Chanka, which is of extreme importance to contemporary indigenous communities in the region due to their strong attachment to the landscape and heritage.

She will use her background and interests in indigenous landscape, resources, and heritage to help spread vital knowledge to the public about the Trail. She hopes to disseminate this knowledge through social media by combining fun imagery with trail safety and historical significance information.



Emory Padgett is currently a MA student at the University of Montana studying cultural heritage.

Originally from the Southeastern United States, he obtained a BA in history and anthropology at the University of Alabama in 2017, where he also interned at the Gorgas House Museum on campus and was involved with Moundville Archaeological Park.

After graduating, he interned at the Georgia Museum of Art, assisting with educational materials and programs. In 2018, Emory made the somewhat whimsical decision of moving to Eastern Montana working with AmeriCorps at a Boys & Girls club. In 2019 he moved to Missoula for another year of service at SpectrUM Discovery Area.

Passionate about education, Emory hopes to make a career in the interpretive field either in museums or with the federal government, hopefully designing exhibits and making exhilarating and engaging signage.

When he's not extolling the virtues of public history/anthropology, Emory enjoys photography, drawing, dabbling in new creative outlets, and exploring the world.

The staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail is excited to be working with these outstanding students and we look forward to accomplishing some great things between now and the spring of 2021.

The Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS) is an eight-month remote internship program for U.S. citizen students, college-level and above, who would like to make a real difference in the work of the U.S. government. Since 2009, thousands of eInterns have expanded the efforts of the U.S. government, working remotely from their school, dorm room, apartment, local library or coffee shop – wherever they happen to be! Virtual interns work only on unclassified projects. They report to their mentors at the Department of State and other federal government agencies in the U.S. and around the world by email, phone, or video chat. VSFS is managed by the Office of eDiplomacy in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Information Resource Management. VSFS collaborates with federal agencies across government on this program. Learn more by visiting: <https://vsfs.state.gov/>



Fall Along the NPNHT Auto Tour Routes

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Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, SW Montana
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



River Front Park, Laurel, Montana
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Fall foliage in Custer Gallatin National Forest near Yellowstone NP
National Park Service photo, Diane Renkin



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