



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

Spring 2021

Administrator's Corner

Spring is in the air.

As we roll into spring, we hope you enjoy the chance to do a little trip planning. Spring can be a great celebration of life. Listen to nature sing- the sounds of birds- and know that the Trail and Auto Tour Route beckons. With the forecast of sunny skies and warmer weather, why not get out on certain segments of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT)?

I would like to invite you to play a leading role in lifting the story of the Trail to inspire understanding. How can one place a value on a Trail such as the NPNHT? It is beyond value. I want to acknowledge another person who is beyond value, too. Roger Peterson, our Public Affairs Specialist, has decided, after nearly 35 years of public service, to travel a new trail: retirement. Roger has tirelessly provided to our public visitors and partners the ability to tour remarkable places along the NPNHT and learn the history of this unforgettable landscape and its people. He has given historical insights, useful tidbits for travelers, and, best of all, carries a profound appreciation for the unique part of America's history through his stunning photographs that have dramatically reflected the majesty and mystery of this Trail and the resilient Nimiipuu who call it sacred ground. Roger's photography has and will continue to inspire many to take a trip to see firsthand these special Trail places.

Roger has successfully achieved the ability to rediscover a past whose splendor is being realized through his outstanding work. He assisted with creating brochures, maps, posters, postcards, and social media connections to tell the stories that have long remained untold and doing so in an accurate and sensitive manner. Thank you for helping me to craft a program that has both educated and inspired people of all ages and ethnicity. Happy Trails, Roger!

In closing, remember during these volatile times that we can reflect that the heartbeat of Mother earth makes us all one.

"All men were created by the same Great Spirit; they are all brothers. The earth is the Mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it." Chief Joseph

Best Regards,

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



U.S. Forest Service photo



May
2021



Roger Peterson Retiring from NPNHT Public Affairs Position

After 12 years serving as the Public Affairs Specialist for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, I have decided that it is time to pass the torch to the next generation.

I will be retiring on June 30, 2021. It's been an amazing career of almost 35 years with the U.S. Forest Service. The highlight of my career has been providing SERVICE to the American Public!! Providing EXCELLENT service has always been my #1 priority!!

It has been rewarding to work with some outstanding colleagues and partners during my career while keeping the focus on the Mission of the U.S. Forest Service of SERVING People and Caring for the Land.

I have been fortunate to work at a couple of VERY special places. While attending the University of Montana (Go Griz!!) I worked as a Stay-in-School Student at the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Office in the Public Affairs staff from 1986-1990. Upon graduating from U of M in 1990 I moved to Vancouver, WA, where I spent the early part of my full time career on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest where I was thrilled to work with staff from the Mount St. Helens National Monument. One highlight was being involved with the "reawaking" of *Loowit* in the fall of 2004 when our Forest shared the world stage with the ongoing U.S. Presidential election that October, what an October surprise! While working in Vancouver I was very fortunate to meet my wife, Debbie and we are looking forward to our retirement years!

In the summer of 2009 I was excited to be able to return to my home town of Missoula, MT, for another stint in the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Office, this time with the Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage, and Wilderness staff as the Public Affairs Specialist for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. It has been a joy to work with numerous partners along the entire length to the Trail. There are so many lessons that all Americans can learn from the Trail's thousands of stories if they take the time to stop and listen and reflect. I know that we have been fortunate to produce some items which will serve the public for many years as they experience the Trail and pause to listen to the ancestors.

Some of the wisest words STILL ring true! They were imparted to me in the EARLY days of my career by an amazing public servant and my first full time supervisor Mr. Roland "Em" Emetaz. I leave all of you with those words:

THE PEOPLE:

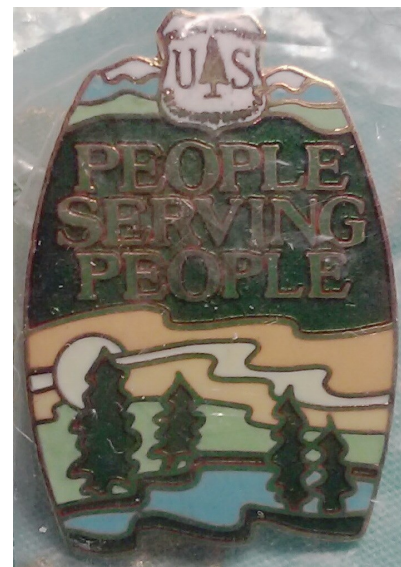
- ...Serving them is the most important part of our job.
- ...Are not dependent on us, we are dependent on them.
- ...Are not an interruption of our work, they are the purpose of it.
- ...Are best served by teamwork.
- ...Walk in their shoes, know your audience.
- ...Are not to argue with or match wits with.
- ...Are part of our job, not outsiders.
- ...Are best served with CANS, not CANNOTS.
- ...Deserve a ton of TREAT and an ounce of TREATMENT.
- ...Serving them will NEVER go out of style.

Keep Watering the Seeds!

"This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for ALL of us to live in." President Theodore Roosevelt

It has been an honor to serve! All the best and Happy Trails until we meet again!

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist



Renaming Celebration Shines a Spotlight on Nez Perce Artifacts

Nez Perce Tribe Secures Earliest and Largest Documented Collection of Material Culture with an Anticipated Re-Naming Celebration June 26, 2021.

Lapwai, ID - The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) is preparing to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the return of the Spalding-Allen Collection (Collection) with a re-naming celebration. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. PDT. The Tribe and Nez Perce National Historical Park ("Park") will host the renaming celebration at Spalding, ID; the original place of acquisition by Reverend Henry H. Spalding from individual Nez Perce tribal members.



Nakia Williamson, Nez Perce Tribal member and Director of the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program explains, "The re-naming of this collection is a significant step to reclaiming ownership of one of the most significant ethnographic collections in existence. More importantly, renaming helps us in rejecting colonialism and its impacts on our 'way of life'."

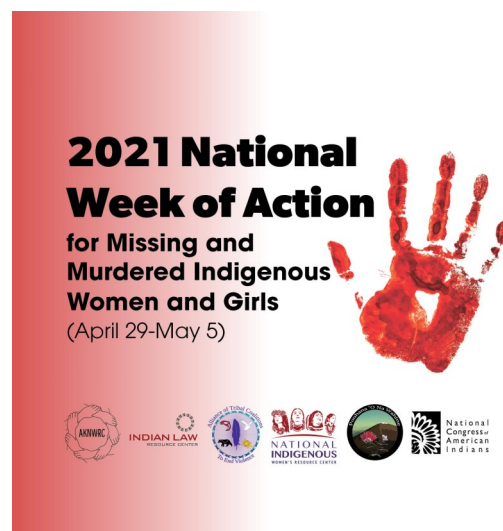
The Nez Perce will always be a people deeply rooted to the land from which they come. The Spalding-Allen Collection demonstrates how embedded even the material items of the Nez Perce, those that traveled the longest of colonial journeys, will eventually find their way home.

From 1836-1846 Spalding acquired 21 Nez Perce artifacts traditionally worn, or used by, men, women, children, and horses, which were later sent to Spalding's benefactor, Dr. Dudley Allen. In 1893, after Dr. Allen's death, his son donated the Collection to Oberlin College, which later loaned most of the collection to the Ohio Historical Society, now known as the Ohio History Connection (OHC). In 1976, curators at the Park rediscovered the collection and began negotiations to display the collection with annual loan renewal agreements starting in 1980.

In 1993, OHC demanded the return of the collection. Rather than donating the items to the Tribe, OHC eventually agreed to sell the collection at its full appraised value of \$608,100. The Tribe was given a six-month deadline to provide the money. With the help of thousands of donors, the Tribe was successful in raising the full amount, and on June 26, 1996, the Tribe brought home the oldest, largest, and most well preserved artifact collection of the Plateau people.

"These items traveled extensively before finally returning home 25 years ago. We want to honor that journey and recognize the tremendous amount of effort that was required to make it happen. Without the help of thousands of people, the reacquisition would not have happened. We look forward to presenting this collection with a name that is representative of our culture and way of life," stated former Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman, Shannon Wheeler. "We know there are other lost artifacts out there. Hopefully they can return home someday as well."

The collection, owned by the Tribe, is physically stored by the Park in a dedicated space designed to meet museum standards and requirements for the best preservation, protection, and accessibility of the collection. The majority of the collection will be on display at the Park's Visitor Center from June 19, 2021, to September 19, 2021.



NPNHT Interpretive Signs to be installed throughout the Bitterroot Valley

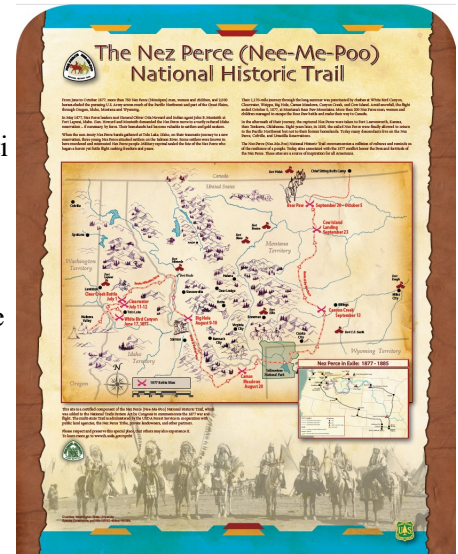
NPNHT Interpretive Signs to be installed throughout the Bitterroot Valley

The Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust (BRCHT) working through a Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) has partnered with organizations to install the standard NPNHT interpretive sign throughout the Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana. Many will be located along the Bitterroot Trail, a multi-use path along U.S. Highway 93, where cyclists and others using the trail can learn that, prior to their ride, many others used the same travel route.

Partners installing these signs include Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Chief Looking Glass Fishing Access site; Montana Parks Fort Owen; Corvallis School District Office, which is the historic site of a sod fort erected to protect settlers from the fleeing Nez Perce; Victor Park; the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisors Office in Hamilton; the City of Hamilton's River Park; the Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton; Sacajawea Rest Park in Darby; and the Big Hole Battlefield in Wisdom, a unit of the Nez Perce National Historical Park.

This project emerged from the understanding that there is a lack of awareness in Bitterroot Valley communities about the route of the NPNHT as well as the story behind the 1877 war and flight. The goal of the project is to build awareness and hopefully curiosity on the part of locals to learn more about the Trail, and to help visitors understand and engage with local history. Once the signs have been installed, Trail administrators, BRCHT, and signs partners 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.

Do you have a great place to install a sign? NPNHT Administrator, Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, made sure we ordered a few extra signs for additional sites along the NPNHT. You don't have to be in the Bitterroot Valley to participate, so if your site is along the Nee-Me-Poo Trail and your group has the capacity to install the sign, please let us know you are interested. We can also help you obtain a pedestal/frame, if needed. Contact Sandra Broncheau-McFarland or BRCHT President, Kristine Komar, at (406) 360-7019 or kk@doublekoutfit.net for more information on the project and costs of pedestals.



Kristine Komar, President
Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust



Thank You to All of Trail Volunteers

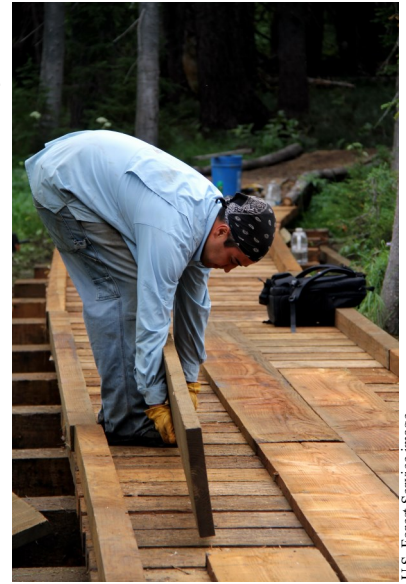
National Volunteer Week was held April 18-24, 2021. It was an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trails (NPNHT) greatest challenges, to build stronger Trail and Auto Tour Route communities, and be a force that transforms the Trail. This year has thrown us a lot of curveballs, and our volunteers have been so gracious to still dedicate their time to promoting our mission and goals. This year we shine a light on

the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talents, and voices to make a difference in their communities.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and has grown exponentially each year with numerous volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week. Doing good comes in many forms, and we recognize and celebrate them all.



BLM image



U.S. Forest Service image

Special recognition goes to a few volunteers who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support our program: Kris Komar, who has done fundraising and forming partnerships in our behalf and has volunteered her support for numerous projects in the Bitterroot Valley. (see page 4 for more information on this special project); The Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse club for reopening sections of the Trail and educating the youth on this historical treasure; Fort Vancouver, National Park Service for hosting the annual Chief Red Heart memorial; Angel Sobotta and the Language Program of the Nez Perce Tribe who have spent many hours providing accurate names and terms for our interpretation and educational materials; The Alvin Josephy Center for Arts and Culture for unwavering support in telling our Trail Story in Wallowa Country; and the Montana Natural History Center, a heartfelt thank you for your loyal support in promoting our education trunks and teacher outreach.



Photo Courtesy of Chuck Ralston

We want to thank all of our amazing volunteers for their incredible support during a year that has been unlike anything we have seen in the past.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT



U.S. Forest Service photo, Joni Packard



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



Nez Perce National Historic Trail Attractions Promoted in Lewis and Clark Trail Brochures and Internet

Historic sites and communities along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) are included and promoted within two regional Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails brochures being distributed along the two Trails from Oregon to Montana.

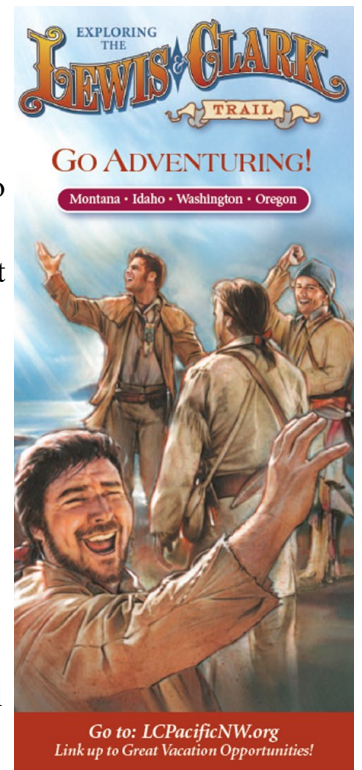
The National Park Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail has provided support for the program that is being coordinated by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. A total of 20,000 brochures are now being distributed to the historic sites, museums, visitors centers, and communities along both the Nez Perce and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails.

“This program is a continuation of the great partnership effort between the two National Historic Trails that was first initiated in 2015” said Jeff Smith, Tourism Administrator for the program.

The Lewis and Clark Trail marketing program also includes a designated internet page on the Lewis and Clark Trail site at NezPerceTour.org with links to auto tours that include NPNHT historic sites, museums, and visitor centers.

“All indications show that as more folks receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, they will be taking more “road trip” vacations in 2021 and 2022,” Smith said. “This partnership tourism program will help guide more visitors to both the Nez Perce and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails.”

Jeff Smith, J. Greg Smith Inc.



Constance Ida Allen-Claye

(Lewiston Morning Tribune)



Connie Ida Allen-Claye was born Oct. 10, 1938, to Irene Wilkinson-Allen and Mark Allen Sr. Connie passed away at the age of 82 from complications of COVID-19 on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston. She was the last member of her generation, with 14 siblings preceding her in death.

Connie was born in Spalding and grew up on Cottonwood Creek (Ma-ka Creek) in Culdesac where she helped on the family farm. She attended school at the Black School in Gifford, then Culdesac School. Connie also graduated from Cooks Christian Training School in Arizona.

While in Phoenix, she met and married Christopher Claye, which produced their son, Conrad Mark Claye. Connie began working as a lab technician while living in Arizona. Connie divorced and then moved to Lewiston, where she raised her son. She then married James Guier. She later divorced and moved to Anchorage, Alaska. This is where she met and married Kimo Moore and both moved back to the Idaho area and purchased a bar business in Winchester.

She spent many years in Winchester and loved spending time in the mountains hunting, camping and gathering traditional foods. She spoke Nimiipuu (Nez Perce Language) fluently and loved to share this knowledge with others. Connie was involved in many positions with the Nez Perce Tribe. She was on different tribal committees and most recently as an honored member of the Circle of Elders. Connie worked with the Clearwater River Casino as a manager and retired from this position after 20-plus years. Connie had a work ethic about her which was fostered from working the

Allen farm. She knew the value of hard work and being on time.

Although tough, Connie also had the biggest heart in helping others in need. A little-known fact about Connie was when people were hired at the casino and they didn't have work clothes or funds to get to work, Connie would supply them until new hires could get on their feet. If by chance Connie called a person "Sweetheart," they had her love and caring. Connie also had the robin (Wiis'pox pox) as her spiritual guardian (Wa ya kin). She loved that she could speak Nimiipuu and was always saying "There's so much to learn."

She was also strong in her Christian beliefs and was a member of the Spalding Presbyterian Church for many years until it was condemned. She continued to go to church in Lapwai at the Methodist Church. Connie loved animals and always had a cat and/or a dog at her home in Cottonwood Creek. She spent her last years living on the land her parents farmed.

Connie was preceded by her paternal grandparents, John and Emma Allen, and her maternal grandparents, Amos and Mary Morris-Wilkinson; parents Mark and Irene Allen; brothers Mathias "Chick," John, Francis "Jeep," Phillip, Mark, Clifford, Stewart and Nelson; sisters Elizabeth, Delphine, Agnes, Ramona, Dora George and Elsie McKay; her son, Conrad Claye, also passed unexpectedly two years ago from an auto accident. If there is life after death, these two are definitely having a good time.

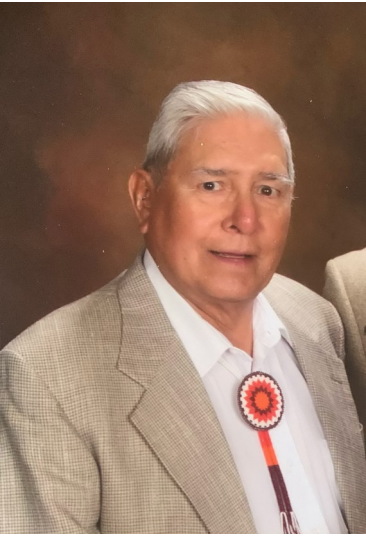
On behalf of the Allen family and the siblings of this last generation, we apologize for any changed plans or travel difficulties anyone experienced during her funeral. Sometimes things don't go as planned but Connie was like that ... "fly by the seat of your pants" kind of woman. She was so adventurous and nonconforming that it was a delight to travel with her and live in the moment with her, whether it was bad or good. Connie would say, "We'tu wiin (don't cry) ... you will dance and we will watch." The family would like to thank all involved in her funeral arrangements, as well as her one last ride through the casino before her burial. I am sure she appreciated her last ride to her final resting place. Yox Ka lo!

Services and viewing were held at Malcom's Brower-Wann Funeral Home. Burial took place Feb. 4, 2021, at Spalding Cemetery. A memorial will be held at a later date.

The staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail is forever grateful to Connie for all of her assistance.



Jesse LaRue Paul



Nez Perce tribal Elder Jesse LaRue Paul of Phoenix, Arizona passed on Saturday Feb. 27, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. He lived in Phoenix, Arizona during the winter months and summers in Craigmont, Idaho. He is the son of Titus James Paul and Maxine S. Caster Paul. He was born in Arkansas City, Kansas July 29, 1933. He was the oldest of five. The family lived in Arkansas City during the early depression years, when the Shell Oil refinery closed in 1937, the family decided to move back to the reservation. First at the Paul Ranch, but then moved to Kamiah, Idaho in Summer of 1938. Jesse started school in Kamiah. When WWII broke out, the family moved to Bremerton, Washington in spring of 1942. All the Paul children attended schools in Bremerton. When the war ended the family returned to the Paul ranch in Spring of 1946. Jesse entered the 7th grade and graduated from Craigmont High school in 1951. He attended one semester at the University of Idaho, worked odd jobs then decided to enlist in the Air Force. He served four years, 2/05/53 to 2/14/57 and released with the rank of A3C. While in the Air Force he met and married Dian Shafroth in 1956, this marriage had four children, Colleen, Greg, Kevin (died in infancy) and Gary. The marriage ended in divorce in 1963. He then married Patty Milshap in 1964, and adopted her daughter Jackie Lynn. This marriage ended in divorce. February 1997 married Bertha Morgan and was the love of his life. They had been together since Sept. 1992.

After the Air Force he began working for Bechtel Corporation which took him to several locations in the states. He was a book keeper. In 1973 he joined the Indian Health service at the Phoenix Area office as the Operating Supervisor Accountant and worked in Phoenix Area from December 1973 through May 1978. He then transferred to Indian Health Service Billings Area where he helped the Billings area move their systems to computers and the RADEN accounting system. In 1980 he transferred to the Indian Health Service Headquarters Office in Rockville, MD. He was the Chief of Systems Implementation, Review, and Analysis for five years. Jesse was a co-team leader in developing the Cost Accounting System and developed the then Budget Structure for Indian Health Service. Transferred to Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service as the Chief of the Financial Management Branch and served there from Nov. 1985 -June 1988. He finished his career at the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service as their Management Analyst. Just prior to his retirement he was awarded the 1997 Director's Award for Excellence and commitment to the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service in implementation of Public law 93-638, Indian Self-Determination. He officially retired from the Indian Health Service Dec. 1997 after 25 years of service.

In his retirement years he and his wife Bert had a business called the "Soaring Eagle Gallery", they sold Native art and jewelry. They attended numerous Native American Organization conferences and pow wows. During the summer months would live in Craigmont, Idaho and return to Phoenix for the winter months. While living in Craigmont Jesse was active in the Craigmont American Legion helping with fund raising and putting on dances. Jesse liked to dance. He was also a member of the Lapwai Nez Perce Gourd Dance Society.

Jesse was instrumental in beginning the research of the Nez Perce Paul family heritage going back to 1793 Great- great-grandfather Chief Ut-sin-malikan, who was pre-sent when Lewis and Clark happened upon the Nez Perce in 1805. Who signed the treaties of 1855 and 1868, and traveled east via Steam ship to Panama by train across the Isthmus of Panama steam ship to New York City and then by train to Washington D.C. Ut-sin-malikan died and is buried there. While Jesse was living in the Washington D.C. area, he found the grave of Ut-sin-malikan in the Congressional Cemetery. This led to several family trips in honoring Ut-sin-malikan with the latest trip of placing a new headstone in October, 2018. He also helped with finding the Name of Great Grandfather Wa-tat-ooy-napt-lah-hayne (Seven Days Whip-ping) who was a warrior with Chief Joseph in the war of 1877. Found the photos of grandfather Jesse Paul (Ka-Khun-Ne) (Black Raven) who attended Carlisle Indian Industrial School from 1880 -1888.

Jesse L. Paul found the record that showed how Ka-Khun-Ne became Jesse Paul, a letter written by Richard Pratt the founder of Carlisle Indian Boarding School. Jesse L. Paul was an avid bowler having achieved a perfect 300 game in 1996. He had won six gold medals in the Senior Olympics of golf for his age group from 2016-2020. He is survived by his wife Bertha her daughter Lorna Morgan (Josue Mendoza), grandson Joshua Edmond Mendoza, Children Colleen Bachman, Greg, Gary, and Jackie Lynn. Sisters Jackie (LeRoy) Inglis, Roberta (Phil Wise) Paul, sister-in-law Donna Paul, and Peggy Coursey Paul. There are 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. He has numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews and several great-great nieces and nephews and many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son Kevin, parents Titus J. Paul and Maxine S. Caster Paul, brothers, Wayne Richard Paul, and Warren Gilbert Paul. His maternal grandparents George Caster and Elizabeth Baker Miller. His paternal grandparents Jesse Paul and Lydia Conditt Paul, the paternal great grandparents Wa-tat-ooy-napt-lah-hayne (Seven Days Whipping) and Phoebe Lowery (Um-al-wat) and maternal Great Grandparents Jane (Wah-le-hoo) Parsons Conditt and Jason (Tintin-nae-khom-kan) Conditt, and Great-great-grandfather Chief Ut-sin-malikan and great-great-grandmother E-wa-wah-a-poo.

Burial and funeral services will be held during the summer of 2021 with date to be announced. He will be interred at the 2nd Kamiah Indian Presbyterian Cemetery, Kamiah, Idaho. Donations may be made to the Craigmont American Legion Post 38, PO Box 33, Craigmont, ID 83523.

The staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail is forever grateful to Jesse for assisting at Battle field commemorations along the Trail and serving as a flag-bearer.





Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Spring to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

Also, check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.

Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.



UPCOMING Events: STAY TUNED



June 5, 2021 —National Trails Day

June 12, 2021 —National Get Outdoors Day

August 1-7, 2021 — Chief Joseph Trail Ride

October 25-28, 2021—23rd Annual American Indian Tourism Conference, Fort McDowell, AZ

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!!

Events at Travelers' Rest State Park, Lolo, MT, Spring/Summer 2021:

June 5: Spring Storytelling on Zoom with Christopher Preston on The Resurgent Wild

June 10: Demonstration Day: Beading with Salisha Old Bull

June 12: Responsible Recreation Day at Travelers' Rest State Park Learn how to stay safe and have fun in the great outdoors with hands-on activities and talks. Topics include dispersed camping; food and waste management; wildlife safety; camping with kids; and more

June 19: Father's Day Fishing at Travelers' Rest

June 26 - 27: Expedition Days to commemorate the Corps of Discovery's 1806 camp at Travelers' Rest. Guided tours, demonstrations, and kids activities

July 8: Demonstration Day: Traditional Skills with Buck Morigeau

August 12: Demonstration: TBA

Additional information at: www.travelersrest.org



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



Retracing the Joseph's Band Return to the NW

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation is traveling the route(s) and researching details of the Joseph's Band return to the Northwest from their last location of exile at Tonkawa, OK. Based on the accounts of accompanying military and government officials, the small group was transported by rail across the U.S. through Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and finally for some, Washington state.

The remaining survivors, those from the surrender at the Bears Paw, MT, to the incarceration site at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, were ravaged by disease and hardship. Most were elderly, sick, wounded, and young children. Few, if any, newborns survived the ordeal, and the graves are numerous along this final plight of their release.

In 1885, the Nez Perce were granted their conditional freedom to return to their homeland. Those members who chose to return to the reservation were returned by rail to Walla Walla, sent upriver by steamship from Riparia, and then traveled by foot or wagons to Fort Lapwai under the supervision of Agent Monteith. The others, Joseph's family and Wallowa Band members, were put on a Spokane-bound train to the eventual destination of Fort Spokane, accompanied by Dr. Faulkner. This monumental division of the Nez Perce occurred at Wallula, near the confluence of the Columbia and Snake Rivers.



Photo Courtesy of the NPTF Karen Heagen

Fort Spokane front gate,



Photo Courtesy of the NPTF Karen Heagen

Fort Spokane grounds, Quartermaster Stable and entrance gate in the distance.

Fort Spokane is situated on a bluff above the Spokane and Columbia Rivers-- a beautiful location with the necessary resources needed for hunting and gathering. However, after entering the ancestral homelands of the Spokane tribe and many others, the Nez Perce found themselves in yet another land of conflict. Their presence at Fort Spokane was not welcome, and eventually the group was moved to Nespelem on the Colville Reservation via wagons and a ferry crossing across the Columbia. It was to be the final destination of the Wallowa Band while Joseph was alive.

This last chapter of the Nez Perce exile is rarely mentioned in the annals of Native American history. It would serve to enrich the chronological events of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. Cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) at Fort Spokane would be instrumental in acknowledging the Nez Perce presence there through collateral, signage, and educational materials.

Karen Heagen, Board member and NPTF Historical Research Administrator





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

A very warm welcome to Stephen Thede who was selected by the National Park Service (NPS) to serve as the superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park and oversee operations at Big Hole National Battlefield and Whitman Mission National Historic Site. Thede became a park ranger in 1981 and has worked at 12 NPS sites across the country including Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Badlands national parks; the National Park Service Headquarters in Washington D.C., Whiskeytown National Recreation Area; and Missouri National Recreational River. He currently serves on the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers steering committee. Steve will report to the Park in early May. A full profile is provided on page 16 of this report.

The Park is recruiting up to two individuals for its Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program (Photo right). The eight-week program runs from June 13 through August 7, 2021. YCC enrollees work 40 hours per week at a rate of \$9.25 per hour. Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 14, 2021. The Youth Conservation Corps is a federal program employing youth ages 15 to 18 in conservation work on public lands. Participants develop a better understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources, Park maintenance needs, and Park interpretation during their participation in the program. For more information and an application please contact Nez Perce National Historical Park by phone (208) 843-7057, email: daniel_berkner@nps.gov, or write to Nez Perce National Historical Park at 39063 U.S. Highway 95, Lapwai, ID 83540.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

The new NPS App is here! Download the app to get started on your next national park adventure. Plan your trip from your phone, download maps and tours ahead of time, and find things to do and places to visit on your journey (Image left).

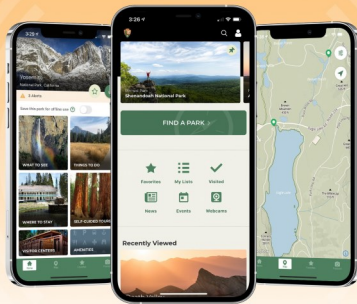


Image Courtesy of the National Park Service

To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit our National Parks and facilities, and in support



Image Courtesy of the National Park Service

of the President’s Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, face masks are now required in all NPS buildings and facilities. Masks are also required on NPS managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

The National Park Service encourages you to [recreate responsibly](#), [follow CDC guidance](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and follow [Leave No Trace principles](#) when you visit. Know before you go, visit [NPS.gov/nepe](https://www.nps.gov/nepe) for current park conditions and availability of restrooms and other facilities.

Kelly Kincaid, Administrative Assistant, Nez Perce National Historical Park

Kelly has accepted a position with the National Park Service Regional Office in Atlanta, GA, and reports next month. The staff of the NPNHT appreciates the support she has given to the Trail the past couple of years and wishes her the best in her future endeavors!





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

Spring has finally arrived in our high mountain valley. There is still some snow on our trails, but it is disappearing quickly. The road to the lower parking lot is expected to open soon, weather dependent.

Check out our webcam at: <https://www.nps.gov/webcams-biho/battlefield.jpg> The Park's trails, picnic areas, and outdoor exhibits remain open year around.

The visitor center is currently closed but will be reopening Saturday, May 29, and will be open 7 days a week. Our summer hours will be 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit our national parks and facilities, and in support of the President's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, face masks are now required in all National Park Service (NPS) buildings, which includes our visitor center and facilities. Masks are also required on NPS-managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as narrow or busy trails, overlooks, and parking lots.

To support the opening of our visitor center in May we will be hiring two new seasonal park rangers and one Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern. Look for more info on them in a future progress report or on the Parks website.



Photo Courtesy of Michael Durham



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Our annual Coyote Camp has sadly been canceled, but staff here have been working on a self-guided tour over the winter with the intent that educators can use it as an alternative to Coyote Camp. The self-guided tour will feature a resource-filled backpack that will be utilized at eleven stops along the Siege Trail. Along the trail each stop will have information or activities which educators will guide their students through. All the materials are designed so that the educator does not have to be an expert or historian available. A complete tour, utilizing these materials, is estimated to take 2.5 hours. If interested, educators can reach out to the park at biho_visitor_information@nps.gov for additional information and scheduling.

"Big Sky" country is still as big at night and the view can be just as spectacular as in the daylight! Big Hole National Battlefield has some amazing night skies that most people unfortunately do not get to see, as the park closes after dusk (Photo above)

On Saturday July 3, 2021, our Summer Speaker Series will begin and continue every weekend throughout the summer until August 10. Presentations will occur between the hours of 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. and visitors will have the opportunity to visit with and ask questions of our speakers. Our speakers have a wealth of knowledge and will be able to talk about a variety of topics.

The annual commemoration is scheduled for Saturday, August 7, 2021. Stay tuned for additional information.

We look forward to our reopening, seeing new faces, and moving forward into 2021!

Photo above left: Winter giving way to spring at the Big Hole National Battlefield.

Leslie Lula, Park Guide Big Hole National Battlefield





Travelers' Rest and Fort Owen State Parks:

Travelers' Rest State Park is gearing up for another fun summer of activities at the Park. Events will include guest speakers, an Artist-in-Residence, historic demonstrations, tribal speakers, and interpretive walks and talks. A list of upcoming events are posted on our friends' group, Travelers' Rest Connection, website, <https://www.travelersrest.org/events.html> or, you can find up-to-date happenings on the Travelers' Rest State Park Instagram and Facebook pages.



Image Courtesy of Travelers' Rest State Park

Travelers' Rest and Fort Owen State Parks have two new AmeriCorps members, Jess Garby and Ryan Martin! These two amazing individuals are creating fun and engaging programs and field trips for both youth and adults. They will be on site through mid-November 2021. If you see them walking the trails, say hello! (Photo Right)

Fort Owen State Park in Stevensville, MT, had many successes in late 2020 and early 2021. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has successfully acquired an additional 0.9 acres to expand Fort Owen State Park. This acquisition happened in November 2020 due to the partnership and collaboration of Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Montana State Parks Foundation, Friends of Fort Owen, and the owner of the Fort Owen Ranch Myla Yahraus. The goal of the additional acreage is to provide better public access with a new parking area.



Image Courtesy of Travelers' Rest State Park

The Friends of Fort Owen also assisted with two new roofs being placed on the East Barracks and Wagner cabin structures in December 2020. The Friends group secured a Rapp Family grant to make the roof project a reality, and we thank them so much for their time and energy.

The Montana State Parks Foundation in partnership with The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Friends of Fort Owen are excited to announce funding to preserve and enhance the historical and educational resources at Fort Owen State Park for the enjoyment of all Park visitors.

The \$507,500 grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust will be used to preserve and restore the original trading post structures including repairs to the adobe walls, the roofs, and foundation. Additionally, improving and expanding the interpretive, cultural, and historical displays held within the buildings and other locations within the park will take place in the next two years.

Fort Owen State Park in Stevensville, MT, will be back open to the public in summer 2021. Public access via a parking lot will be completed this spring and early summer. Check the Park website out for more information and updates on when the park will re-open: <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/fort-owen> AmeriCorps members and volunteers will be on site in the summer to answer visitor's questions and give updates on new and exciting changes coming to the Park.

Here are two links to recent press releases and articles about Fort Owen:
https://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_5cac731f-ee1e-57a9-a3b7-b8eeca8b04c5.html
<https://www.montanastateparksfoundation.org/improvements-coming-to-fort-owen>

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





News From the Forest Service Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

Lolo Pass Visitors Center is pleased to announce that Samantha Berglund will be filling the position of visitor’s center manager, beginning April 12. Samantha is a native of Helena, MT, and comes to Lolo Pass bringing a wealth of experience in native studies, wilderness, and management in youth outdoor programming. On your next pass through the area, please stop by and meet the newest addition to the Visitor Center Staff!

During this spring quarter, Lolo Pass Visitor Center will continue to provide service and sales through the front window. Although visitors are not yet permitted inside the visitor center, staff are still offering gift shop sales, information on the area’s history and recreational opportunities, as well as clean and safe restrooms. While the visitor center transitions from winter to summer operations, window service this spring will be available Thursday- Sunday 7:30 a.m. -3 p.m. PDT with restrooms open 24 hours a day. Summer dates and hours will be announced in mid-May. We are hopeful that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic will stabilize in the future and we will again be able to invite visitors back into the interior of the visitor center.

In the meantime, staff at Lolo Pass have been working on several projects to share stories about the unique cultural, historic, and natural history of the area with our visitors!

With support from the Forest Service and an Idaho Humanities grant, Discover Your Northwest enlisted help of local Nez Perce youth to produce the short film, “Creative Hearts and Minds of the Nez Perce”. This documentary showcases a number of Nez Perce artists and teachers, who have participated in the “Artists in Residence” program at Lolo Pass. The film premiered online in December of 2020, and can be found, on YouTube, by searching for the film title, “Creative Hearts and Minds of the Nez Perce”. Boise Public Radio interviewed three of the artists from this film; Stacia Morfin, Brandon McHone, and Mikailha Thompson, on April 5, for the show “Idaho Matters.” To hear the entirety of the program with these talented artists, log onto the Boise Public Radio website, and connect to the April 5 “Idaho Matters” show.

Lolo Pass staff busy organizing and developing a series of summer programs for the 2021 season. This year’s programs will be held outdoors to encourage social distancing. Roger Amerman, historian and artist, will offer one of the first programs of the year, focusing on Camas ethnobotany. His presentation will be scheduled to coincide with the Camas bloom at Packer Meadows, just east of Lolo Pass Visitor Center. Visit the Discover Your Northwest Lolo Pass Visitors Center Facebook page on June 1 to see the summer program schedule for dates and times of upcoming interpretive events at Lolo Pass.

Visitors can expect new and exciting changes to be happening around the center this summer. Thanks to funding from the Great America Outdoors Act (GAOA), which was passed by Congress in 2020, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be improving recreational opportunities across the Forest. The GAOA provides opportunities to deliver benefits to the American public through major investments in recreation infrastructure, public lands access, and land and water conservation. These investments will also contribute to the economic growth and job creation in rural America.



At Lolo Pass, these capital improvement funds will be used to address a backlog of needed repairs, as well as update signage and interpretive displays. One example of the upcoming work is improvement to the wetland accessible trail that lies immediately adjacent to the visitor center. Leveraging a grant from Idaho State Parks and Recreation and with volunteer labor provided by the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, the Forest was able to secure the remaining funds through GAOA. In combination funding will allow replacement of the aging boardwalk and cracked asphalt and deteriorating wooden benches, along with installation of two new sculptures along the disabled accessible wetland trail.

Nez Perce Artist, Abraham Yearout, was commissioned to create sculptures that could be included as permanent displays at Lolo Pass. The NPNHT Administration paid for the silhouette to be created and also

provided the Forest \$400 for installation of an interpretive panel.

These additions are similar to displays located at key sites along the length of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The photo below shows a finished display outside of Cook City on the Gallatin National Forest which offers an example of what the life size silhouettes, and interpretive signage will look like (Photo left).

Kearstin Edwards, Acting Manager, Lolo Pass Visitor Center



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

New Faces Along the Trail:

Frank Beum Appointed Regional Forester of the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region



U.S. Forest Service photo

United States Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen announced the appointment of Frank Beum as the new regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, effective April 12. Beum will lead more than 2,000 permanent and seasonal employees and share stewardship of 22 million acres of national forests and grasslands with partners and forty-eight affiliated tribes in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

“Frank will provide essential leadership carrying out agency and regional goals to work across landscapes with partners to regain ecological function, reduce the risks of damage to forests and grasslands and the surrounding communities, enhance the user experience, and manage the multiple uses and interests of these public lands,” said Christiansen. “His work will support national priorities such as our role in containing the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring racial justice and equity, rebuilding the rural economy, and addressing the impacts of climate change.”

Beum is currently the deputy regional forester for natural resources for the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta, overseeing 13 southern states and Puerto Rico. He has also served in acting roles as the associate deputy

chief of the national forest system and the national director of forest management in Washington, DC, as well as the acting regional forester in the Intermountain Region in Ogden.

Beum has worked in forestry for 40 years in various roles on seven national forests and five ranger districts in the Rocky Mountain and Southern Regions, as well as in the Southern Regional Office, the Washington Office, the Ohio Division of Forestry, and a college fellowship with the Wilderness Society. He began his Forest Service career in the Rocky Mountain Region as a seasonal forestry technician in 1981. After six summers of seasonal work on the Rio Grande, San Juan, and Shoshone National Forests, his first permanent job was on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, serving for eight years in both Colorado and Wyoming.

Beum holds a bachelor's degree in forestry at Ohio State University and a master's degree in recreation resource management from Colorado State University. He and his wife, Jan, have two grown sons, who were born in Wyoming, a daughter-in-law, and one grandson.

Beum replaces Tammy Angel, who has served as acting regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region since January. Angel will return to her position as deputy regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region.



U.S. Forest Service photo

Samantha Berglund Named New Lolo Pass Visitor Center Manager

Our new Lolo Pass Visitor Center Manager Samantha Berglund comes to us from her hometown of Helena, MT. She is a graduate from the University of Montana with a degree in both Cultural Anthropology and Native American Studies.

Sam has grown up in the backcountry exploring and learning about the vast history this area has to offer. Following three years managing an outdoor school program on a ship off of the coast of England and another five years directing a high adventure wilderness backpacking program in Colorado, she is excited to return to the local area and add her love of the wilderness and outdoors experience to the already vast and knowledgeable community of the Lolo Pass Visitor Center.

Sam's coffee addiction and love of all things outdoors run deep, including spending time with her with two happy huskies. Stop by the Visitor Center en route to your next adventure and get to know our new manager!



New Faces Along the Trail:

Stephen Thede selected as Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park

The National Park Service (NPS) has selected Stephen Thede to serve as the superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park and oversee operations at Big Hole National Battlefield and Whitman Mission National Historic Site. He reported on May 9, 2021.

Thede became a Park Ranger in 1981 and has worked at 12 NPS sites across the country including Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Badlands National Parks, the National Park Service Headquarters in Washington D.C., Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, and Missouri National Recreational River. He currently serves on the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers steering committee.

“Steve brings 37 years of National Park Service experience to this new role,” said Acting NPS Regional Director Linda D. Walker. “His commitment to conservation and experience working with tribal partners make him a great fit for this position.”

Thede holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry with a minor in psychology, geophysics, and volcanology from the University of Hawaii. He also completed post-graduate work in biomedicine and business administration at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Hawaii.

“I am honored to have been selected for this position,” said Thede. “These Park Service sites tell remarkable stories and are an important part of the history we share as Americans.”

Thede will be joined by his wife of 30 years, Cheryl, who is a former park ranger. The two enjoy all aspects of outdoor recreation and look forward to becoming active members of the community.

Nez Perce National Historical Park preserves a continuum of at least 11,000 years of Nez Perce culture. The park was established in 1965, and in 1992 Congress expanded the park to include 14 sites in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. As part of this expansion, Big Hole National Battlefield was added to Nez Perce National Historical Park. Learn more at nps.gov/nepe and www.nps.gov/biho/

Whitman Mission National Historic Site was established in 1936 to preserve a portion of the Weyiiletpuu homeland, interpret the tragic events surrounding 19th-century Christian missionary activities there, and seek healing together with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Learn more at the park’s website: www.nps.gov/whmi/



New Faces Along the Trail:

Mike Goicoechea Selected as Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF) is pleased to announce Mike Goicoechea has accepted the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor.

"I'm humbled to have this opportunity to continue working in one of my favorite forests. I'm excited to work with our employees across the spectrum of departments and help us collectively accomplish a mission. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing our team succeed," remarked Goicoechea.

Currently, Goicoechea previously served as the BDNF Fire Staff Officer and the primary Incident Commander for the Northern Rockies Fire Team 1. Born and raised on a ranch in the Bitterroots, he took his first serious job with the USDA Forest Service in 1995 as a Forestry Technician after graduating from the University of Montana. The job got him hooked and Goicoechea went on to hold various positions within the agency to include a position as a Smokejumper Squad Leader/Spotter, Smokejumper Foreman, District Fire Management Officer, Forest Fire Management Officer, Fire Staff Officer, and Deputy Forest Supervisor (Acting).

Goicoechea provides a different kind of leadership by coaching his niece and nephews in their sporting events. You may also find him enjoying a game of golf or out exploring our National Forest System lands with his wife, Terina, and their black lab, "Skidgen." Goicoechea's passion for leading drove him to become the Acting Northern Rockies Operations Officer for the BLM in 2016 and seek advanced qualifications as an Agency Administrator.

His ability to effectively manage resources and personnel, and make timely, informed decisions has been honed during over 22 years of service on National Forests throughout Montana. We eagerly look forward to benefiting from his leadership beginning May 9, 2021.



U.S. Forest Service photo

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



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



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Spring Along the NPNHT Auto Tour Routes



Bitterroot flowers, Lolo, MT
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Hawk, Red Rock Lakes NWR, MT
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Camas Bloom, Packer Meadows Lolo Pass
Visitor Center, ID
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Columbine flower, Birch Creek, ID
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



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