



# Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report* Winter 2015



## Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

Every day people use desk planners to help keep track of the important moments in their lives. Looking back over the last 10 years since we first introduced the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Desk Planners evokes memories of gatherings with friends and family, travels to places near and far, and events that inspired and delighted. Desk Planners are more than tools to organize our lives, but for us most importantly a historical record for how we lived our lives. It is for this reason the NPNHT Desk Planner is a tradition welcomed by our public across the nation and in a number of countries outside the United States. The planner is one way we educate and interpret the events surrounding the flight of 1877 and the rich cultural history of the Nez Perce and many others as we strive to share the stories of the lives that were touched by the war and flight. It is one venue we use to announce ceremonies, performances, and educational programs along the NPNHT. Behind every planner are hours of research from multiple sources to ensure accuracy. Sources include, archives, books, journals, manuscripts, diaries, letters, and more. Some information has been provided by volunteer time and images have often been provided at reduced rates or no charge. Valuable time has been spent by the Nez Perce Language Program to make this interpretive product a more enjoyable and educational tool.



L-R: Sandi McFarland, and Gary Werner, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System.

Our work celebrates the rich traditions and histories of the Flight of 1877. Our staff is dedicated to increasing our understanding of the past events and future life of the young people who will be our next leaders. We are mandated to preserve, display, and embody every facet of the NPNHT. Friends of the NPNHT treasure and incorporate their personal affection for this trail into active participation in the NPNHT daily work.

The generosity of our volunteers is recognized. We can't tell you how much we appreciate our volunteers support. Our Desk Planner would not exist without you! The beautifully color-illustrated annual planner is one way we say "thank you" for your tireless work.

As we look towards 2015 and beyond, you will experience moments in the NPNHT planner I am confident you will find memorable. As you begin to fill out your 2015 planner, I hope you enjoy the opportunity to view these special images from a wide source of museum collections. I hope you pencil in at least one visit to the NPNHT, commemorations, in-person, or online to see for yourself the incredible dedication our team has made to advance the public interest and knowledge about the NPNHT.

We hope you enjoy the Desk Planner as much as we have enjoyed creating it. I invite you to contact us with ideas for future themes, how we can make improvements, and how you would like to be involved. I truly hope that peace and happiness are with you and your family this New Year. Here's to a wonderful New Year and a celebration of our lives.

Respectfully,

*Sandi McFarland,*  
Administrator, NPNHT



## NPNHT Comprehensive Plan Revision

The NPNHT staff continues to receive written comments from the public on our Comprehensive Plan (CP) revision. The staff encourages all people to comment over the next couple years. Comments can be sent to e-mail at [npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us](mailto:npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us) or by postal service to Julie Molzahn, NPNHT CP Team, U.S. Forest Service Northern Region, PO Box 429, Plains, MT 59859.

The NPNHT staff will analyze the current set of comments and public meeting notes over the next month. These notes and public comments will be used in several ways:

- Refine the proposed Objectives and Practices that were reviewed at each public meeting in 2014.
- Develop new Objectives or Practices that were not considered or thought of to date.
- Consider new information for adding new High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Trail Segments required under the National Trails System Act of 1968 as revised and amended.
- Address opportunities and concerns brought forward on how the revision will be completed and what will be included.
- Assist in developing a process to inform public, tribal and governmental agencies on the progress of the revision work.
- Review work that has been completed and determine what else needs to be incorporated into the revision of the CP.

The next priority for the CP is continuing to work to complete tribal consultation and briefing state and local government officials over the next few months. If there is a need to hold additional meetings in your local area please contact NPNHT Trail Administrator Sandi McFarland in writing at 12730 Hwy 12, Orofino, ID 83544 or by e-mail at [smcfarland01@fs.fed.us](mailto:smcfarland01@fs.fed.us).

### Rights-of-Way Development

During the public meetings, the staff has introduced the National Trails System Act requirement of mapping the NPNHT Rights-of-Way. In order to acquire land for the Trail, the rights-of-way locating the Trail's legal description needs to be selected, mapped and then legally defined. The U.S. Forest Service is requesting assistance from the States to start this rights-of-way process. This work will include working cooperatively with the State, local governments and landowners.

The Rights-of-Way process will take a minimum of five years to complete. It is essential that NPNHT staff work with all affected public to develop the best possible alignment for the NPNHT. The Chief of the U.S. Forest Service will be the responsible official for this work. The final map will be submitted to Congress to be included in the Congressional record for the NPNHT. If you have questions please contact Julie at 406-826-4352 or e-mail at [jmolzahn@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmolzahn@fs.fed.us).

Julie Molzahn, CP Revision Coordinator, NPNHT

## Land and Water Conservation Proposal for FY17

There will be a new call for proposals in late February. If you know of any potential lands that the NPNHT staff should consider please contact Julie Molzahn at the address listed above.

## 2015 Nez Perce National Historic Trail Desk Planners Distributed

The annual desk planner for 2015 arrived in mid-December 2014 and just as quickly the planners went back out the door to people across the region, and country, along with a few international requests.

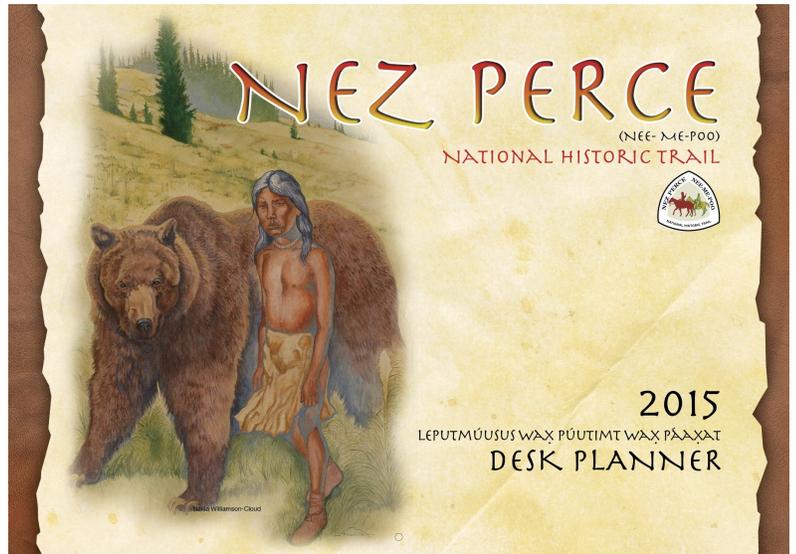
This year's version of the popular educational planner depicts a number of young individuals whose lives were changed forever by the events of 1877. It also includes images of several games and activities in which young people would have normally engaged.

Thanks again to the staff of Recreation Solutions who helped with procuring images, design, layout, and printing; Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner; and others who provided information on the annual commemorations.

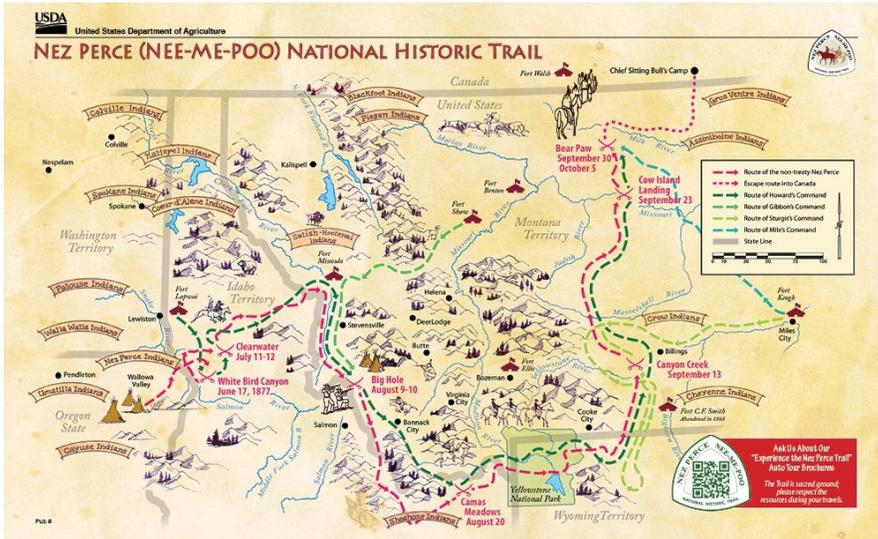
Work on the 2016 Desk Planner will begin soon. We are always looking for new and creative ideas. If any of our partners have an idea they would like to propose for a Desk Planner theme please share it with the NPNHT staff.

We have a few planners left. If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or [rmpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmpeterson@fs.fed.us).

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



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



For several years now the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) has distributed a map printed using a sepia tone/parchment style.

After speaking with a number of visitor locations along the NPNHT this past year we have reformatted this product.

It will soon be available as an 8.5 x 14 “tear sheet” style visitor handout. This product will be printed as pads, with 50 sheets per pad. They are currently at the printer and we anticipate delivery in early February.

We have kept the map on one side but on the back included information about the NPNHT, including contact information and how to access the NPNHT Auto Tour brochures.

We appreciated your feedback. Let us know how this tear sheet is received by your staff and visitors.

If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or [rmpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmpeterson@fs.fed.us).

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

## Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Releases Updated Auto Tour Brochure

The staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is proud to announce the release of the revised and updated version of the Experience the NPNHT Auto Tour brochures for the section between Leadore, ID, and West Yellowstone, MT.

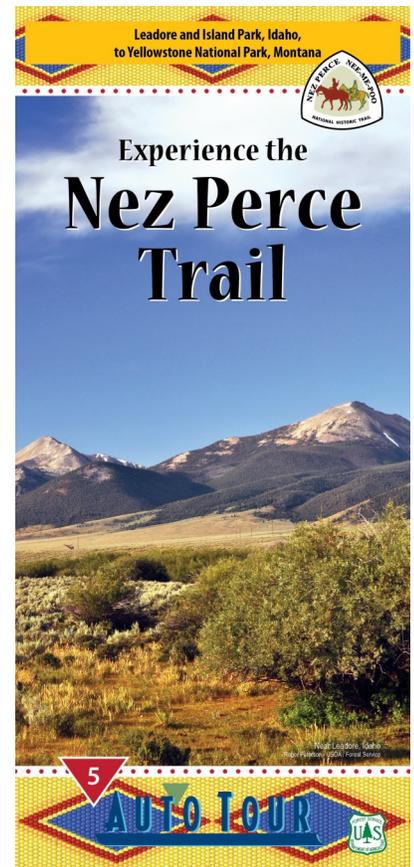
The Auto Tour brochures are designed to help visitors experience the NPNHT. The revision of this brochure started last summer. We have received great feedback from a number of people and would like to thank all those who commented and helped to make these accurate, informative, and user friendly brochures which will help guide visitors along the NPNHT for years to come.

Also, thanks to the staff at Recreation Solutions for their assistance in creating these outstanding products to help visitors experience the NPNHT story.

This brochure, along with the entire family of NPNHT Auto Tour brochures, are available for [download from the NPNHT website](#).

If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or [rmpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmpeterson@fs.fed.us).

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



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

The NPNHT will be soon be releasing an updated version of the Trail's general brochure. The current edition, printed in 2013, was widely received and nearly 10,000 copies were distributed in the past 18 months. The brochure includes more information about those Nez Perce who escaped to Canada, were exiled in Kansas and Oklahoma, and the internment of Chief Red Heart's Band at Fort Vancouver in Washington Territory. We also worked with the Nez Perce Tribe's language program to ensure the correct Nez Perce spellings for the names of Nez Perce leaders.

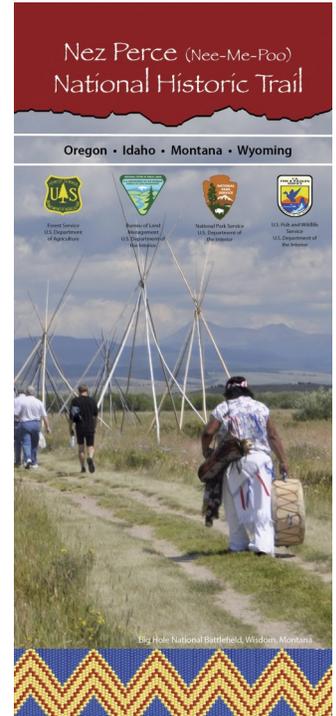
The popular brochure folds into a format the same size as the current Trail Auto Tour brochures, which makes it easier to display in brochure racks.

Thanks to the staff from Recreation Solutions, Nez Perce National Historic Park, the Nez Perce Tribe, and other partners for helping with updates and creating this outstanding product to help share the Trail story.

A [downloadable version](#) is available on the Trail's website. This brochure is currently at the printer and hard copies should be available in early February.

If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or [mpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:mpeterson@fs.fed.us).

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



### UPCOMING Events:



January—March, 2015—Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)  
February 7-12, 2015 — Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC  
March 16-20, 2015 — Native American Awareness Week Lewiston, ID  
May 15-16, 2015 — Eastern Oregon University Indian Arts Festival, Pow Wow and Friendship Feast, La Grande, OR  
May 17-20, 2015 - [International Trails Symposium](#), Portland, OR  
June 6, 2015—National Trails Day  
June 13, 2015—National Get Outdoors Day, fees waived at U.S. Forest Service sites that require a fee, (check with local units)  
June 19-21, 2015 — Chief Joseph & Warriors Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID  
June 27 - July 1, 2015 — 15th [Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails](#), Nashville, TN



### Be Safe in Your Travels

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

**Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the speed limit in these areas.**



## Congratulations to the Nez Perce Trail Foundation's Dick Seymour

A 16-year resident of Wallowa, OR, Dick Seymour, has been appointed by Governor John Kitzhaber to the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council.

A former superintendent of electronics for Portland Public Schools and a current resident of Wallowa, Dick will become one of nine volunteers on the Council. Dick says his term will last from December 1, 2014, until November 30, 2018. Dick is also serving as Vice President of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

Sixteen is the magic number in this story because the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council formed 16 years ago in 1998; Dick has been a resident of Wallowa for 16 years; and there are a total of 16 trails in Oregon that have been designated as historic trails.

One of the 16 historic trails in Oregon is the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) that begins in Wallowa County.

Always with a strong interest in horseback riding, Dick and his wife Sally first joined the non-profit Oregon Equestrian Trails organization in 1978, eight years after that entity was formed. The purpose of the group has always been to make certain horse travel routes and trails remain open to the public. Other historic trails in Oregon include the Lewis and Clark NHT, Oregon NHT, California (Applegate) NHT, Whitman Mission Route, Upper Columbia River Route, Meek Cutoff, Free Emigrant Road, Cutoff to the Barlow Road, Klamath Trail, Jedediah Smith Route, Benjamin Bonneville Route, Ewing Young Route, John Fremont Route, and Santiam Wagon Road.

*Source: Wallowa County Chieftain*

## Partner Profile

This is the first in what we hope will become a regular column. We know there are many people who have an interest and a passion for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and its many stories. In future reports we plan to profile a person and have them tell us about their connection to the NPNHT.

### Meet Carson Heagen

I am a Senior at Boise State University (BSU) studying General Business. I was raised in sunny southern California and left to go to school at BSU to pursue my degree and to experience a new state full of adventure. In my spare time, when I am not exploring the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT), I enjoy hiking with my dog and exploring the Boise National Forest. I also like to travel, mountain bike, fish, cook, sail, and drive anything with four wheels and a motor. My ambition in life is to travel and see as many things this amazing world has to offer. I love to meet new people and learn about the different places and experiences they have encountered.

*NPNHT Staff:* Carson, tell us how you first got involved with the NPNHT and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF)?



Carson Heagen, at White Bird Battlefield along the NPNHT.

*Carson:* I first got involved with the NPNHT and the Foundation through my mother, Karen Heagen. In recent years, she has developed a sense of excitement and passion not only for the Trail but the Native American people as a whole. As I was working through community college, I would hear of her trips and adventures throughout the Pacific Northwest. Her experiences ultimately led me to want to become involved and learn more about a culture and people of which I had relatively little experience or knowledge.

*Continued on page 6*



*NPNHT Staff:* What's your first memory related to the NPNHT?

*Carson:* My first memory related to the NPNHT was at the Bear Paw Battlefield. I had joined my mother in traveling the final stages of the NPNHT a few years ago. We had a chance to walk the Trail that surrounds many of the historical locations that encompassed the battlefield. This experience was one that I will truly remember for years to come. The eerie feeling of walking among rifle pits and dugout shelters that had once protected men, women, and children of the Nez Perce tribe, struck me with a heavy heart. Here was a proud and honorable group of people who had lived peacefully on the land just as their ancestors, and then suddenly their culture and traditions were forever changed.

*NPNHT Staff:* What is the best/worst thing to happen to you since you started working with NPNHT and the NPTF?

*Carson:* The best thing that I have experienced while on the NPNHT was last summer on one of the final nights of our Trail tour. We had just spent the day at Big Hole National Battlefield and all of us had a feeling of sadness and reflection of the historic events that took place. We all circled around a campfire to share our feelings and insights of our own thoughts and experiences of following the NPNHT. A couple people that really made an impression on me were a husband and wife (Matt and Lisa) that are both of Native American descent. They are two of the most kind-hearted people that I have ever met. They expressed their feelings of sadness about the atrocities that had happened to the Nez Perce people. Their sense of compassion and unity towards others really had a big impact on me. This event was an experience for me to learn that even when a culture is faced with great sadness and hardship, they still remain true to being good people.

The worst thing that has happened to me while on the Trail was the realization of the atrocities that the United States Calvary caused to the Nez Perce people. In the public school system, they keep the history of the Native American people to a minimum or only focus on positive events. It was an eye-opening experience for me to learn what the Nez Perce people had gone through and are still going through today. Although they had been through many hardships, I think the history should be taught more openly than it is. It is only in this manner can the public appreciate and empathize with the history of the Native American people.

*NPNHT Staff:* What do you wish other people knew about the NPNHT?

*Carson:* I wish that people were more educated about the events that took place in order for the western expansion of the United States to be possible. Without a complete understanding of the sacrifices and hardships that took place, people will never fully appreciate the area that they live in or travel to. This would also give more insights to the amazing people that called the Pacific Northwest home for thousands of years before the United States "claimed" it for themselves.

*NPNHT Staff:* Tell me about someone who has influenced your decision to work with NPNHT?

*Carson:* It would be too difficult for me to tell about a single person who has influenced my decision to work with the NPNHT. My mother, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service rangers, and other agency people that dedicate their time to look after the historical sites, the Nez Perce descendants who bring others together at the Tamkaliks Celebration & Friendship Feast, and everyone in-between have all made a huge impact on my life.

*NPNHT Staff:* How would you encourage others to become interested in the NPNHT?

*Carson:* I would encourage others to become interested in the NPNHT through education. Even with a college education I was still fairly ignorant of many of the events that had taken place until my mother introduced me to them. Not to undermine the public school system, but many of these historical events need to be taught in a more thorough and concise manner at an earlier age. In addition, I would also encourage others to become interested by seeking individuals that already have a knack for the outdoors. Many of the sites and battlefields have hiking trails and many outdoor features that the average person may not be aware even exist.





# News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

The 2014 National Historic Trails Workshop, sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System, was held this past October in Salt Lake City Utah. I was privileged to attend my first Historic Trails Workshop as the representative of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. The workshop was well attended with approximately 70 individuals representing most of our National Historic Trails. The workshop was also attended by Federal representatives from the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U. S. Forest Service. Joining me from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) was Sandi McFarland, Administrator, and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist.

The workshop proved to be a valuable experience due to the fact that several agenda topics addressed have proven to be of great importance to the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. Issues concerning partnership building and grant research were covered in depth. Other topics such as conservation easements and land preservation also created a great deal of discussion. It was obvious from the comments from those in attendance that all trails, both Scenic and Historic, are potential targets for industrial and visual intrusions.

Ron Hall, President of Evans-Hall Inc. was in attendance and gave a presentation that highlighted his NPNHT Virtual Tour program. This interactive map corresponds with the NPNHT "Auto Tour Route." Other presenters covered a number of topics from field inventories to the utilization of youth for service projects. Discussions also included the need for Trail Organizations to have an appointed Social Media point person. Obviously social media is now the best outreach tool available to us. One of the highlights of this year's workshop was the introduction of eight young adult trail apprentices who presented a video that they produced. The video retraces a portion of the route taken by the Donner-Reed Party, traveling the ninety mile waterless stretch of the California Trail known as Hastings Cutoff. The video can be found on YouTube under "Hastings Cutoff – Retracing the Footsteps of the Donner-Reed Party."

On October 28 trail representatives spent the afternoon on a bus touring the Echo Canyon area and the immigrant trails, including the



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

The Workshop was a great opportunity for participants to network and share information. L-R Jim Zimmerman, President NPTF and Margaret Gorski, President of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation at Echo Canyon, UT.

California, Mormon and Pony Express National Historic Trail, that eventually lead pioneers to Salt Lake City and beyond. Several stops were made where narrators talked about the history of the trail and in some cases how the area came to be protected.

On the morning of October 29, the entire trails group headed out for the Hastings Cutoff and boarded passenger vans. The trip took us almost to Wendover, NV, but our actual destination pointed us toward the Pilot and Silver Back Mountains. Stops were made from time to time for presentations. One stop was made in which our host gave us a very interesting "High Value" preservation presentation. This field trip was the perfect example as to how a historic location can be preserved for future generations to enjoy. This portion of the trail taken by the Donner Party was still well preserved and looked as though time had stood still since 1846.



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

National Historic Trails Workshop participants hiking the Hastings Cutoff of the California NHT in western Utah.

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation continues to upgrade our organizational structure and is preparing for what we hope to be a progressive and productive 2015. Our focus for this years Washington D.C. "Hike the Hill" event will be to campaign for the extension of the NPNHT to include the exile route from the Bear Paw mountains of Montana to Oklahoma and the subsequent return route to the Northwest.

Jim Zimmerman, President, Nez Perce Trail Foundation





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

A new year brings new changes and challenges to Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The New Year brought additional transition for two NPS employees retiring from the park’s interpretive program: Alyse Cadez, education specialist, and chief of interpretation Terry O’Halloran. Under a reorganization, Idaho unit manager Scott Eckberg will manage interpretation and maintenance at Spalding in cooperation with supervisors and staff.

The year is shaping up to be busy. A contract to design new exhibits for the Spalding, ID, visitor center has been let. This will replace and update exhibits first installed following the visitor center’s completion in the early 1980s. The design phase will lead to a fabrication contract with exhibit installation to follow in 2017. Marc Blackburn, supervisory ranger and interpretive specialist, will coordinate this effort.

Noteworthy Park and agency anniversaries will also occur in 2015 and 2016, and added public activities will accompany their observance.

On May 15, 1965, Nez Perce National Historical Park was authorized by Congress to “facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country . . . having exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation.” A monthly speaker series, anniversary cultural activities on May 15-16, and a traveling art exhibition showcasing tribal artists will be conducted.

The Park’s golden anniversary will be followed by the National Park Service centennial in 2016. As funding permits, the Park anticipates making centennial improvements to key park sites, including new entrance signs at Heart of the Monster, Canoe Camp, and White Bird Battlefield.

To learn more, contact the Park at 208-843-7009, and stay abreast of events at [www.nps.gov/nepe](http://www.nps.gov/nepe) or [www.Facebook.com/DiscoverNezPerceNationalHistoricalPark](http://www.Facebook.com/DiscoverNezPerceNationalHistoricalPark).

Scott Eckberg  
Idaho Unit Manager  
Nez Perce National Historical Park



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

With the arrival of winter comes the slow time in visitation to the Park. During December, we had many days with fewer than 10 visitors, but that is okay as we have plenty to do getting ready for the upcoming

summer season. We will again host our annual education program, Coyote Camp, the week of May 18, 2015. We are also busy getting our summer speakers lined up and working on getting our summer interns and seasonal park guides hired. There is always lots of paperwork to do all winter long and all of that keeps us busy, but if you find yourself in the area, please stop by. Our staff will be happy to share their knowledge with you.



Big Hole Winter Sunrise

In January we will goodbye to Stephanie Martin. Martin, the National Park Service Ranger at Bear Paw, is leaving Chinook, MT, for Walla Walla, WA, and Whitman Mission National Historic Site. She has been the “Lone Ranger” at Bear Paw since 2008 and has done a world of good for the Park site. Being by herself for the majority of the year, she was not afraid to tackle anything that was thrown at her and we are going to have a hard time finding someone to replace her. We wish her well in her new job. We are betting it will be strange for Stephanie to have other NPS staff around her all year long. The Park is looking to fill the vacant Bear Paw position, which operates from a leased office in Chinook, MT, by this summer.

Steve Black, Superintendent, Big Hole National Battlefield



# News From the National Park Service:



## Bear Paw Battlefield—Personnel Changes

Bear Paw Battlefield Ranger Stephanie Martin (*pictured on right near Frenchman's Creek*) transferred in January to Whitman Mission National Historic Site in Walla Walla, WA. After seven seasons at Bear Paw, Martin has had the opportunity to explore many areas of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail north of the Missouri river in Montana. Cow Island, Cow Creek, and Frenchman's Creek were some of the sites Martin visited with Jim Magera on field trips to photograph and GPS Nez Perce sites. She will work as an Interpretive Ranger at the Whitman Mission National Historic Site Visitor Center. Martin began her new assignment in Walla Walla on January 12th.



National Park Service Photo

Jim Magera, Bear Paw Battlefield Interpretive Ranger, will continue to greet visitors at the battlefield. He will be working part time this winter. He is shown (*photo on left*) at this year's October Commemoration where he photographed the participants.

*The Staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) would like to acknowledge Stephanie for her service at Bear Paw. She has provided input and contributed photographs to a number of NPNHT publications and provided information for the NPNHT's quarterly Progress Reports. We look forward to continuing to work with Jim.*



Stephanie Martin, National Park Service Photo



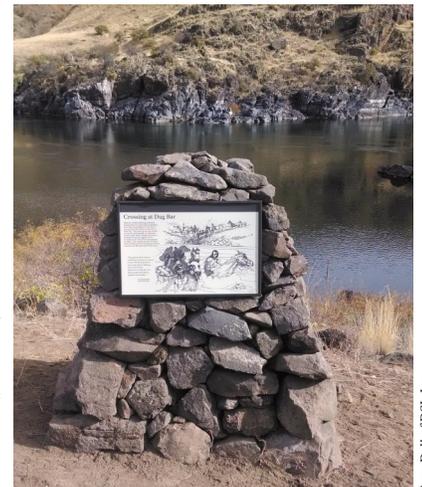
## News From the Forest Service: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

New visitor information and interpretive signs that will enhance the visitor experience to this important site on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail were recently installed at Dug Bar Crossing in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

A new information kiosk and interpretive sign were constructed at the Dug Bar National Historic Park. The interpretive sign tells the story of the Chief Joseph Band of the Nez Perce tribe crossing the Snake River at this site in the spring of 1877. The large routed wood plank sign at the crossing removed and replaced with a large rock cairn and an interpretive sign. The artwork on the sign was created by Nakia Williamson-Cloud, Director of the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources Department. (*photo right*)

An "L shaped" kiosk (*photo bottom right*) now replaces the three information panels near the boat ramp. The kiosk panels that will be installed when the weather allows this spring, including a Nez Perce National Historic Park map and locator, a Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail sign (*left*) and a National Forest informational panel

for users in the area. A new entrance sign was also installed at the north entrance to the site along the road.



Photos courtesy of Gene Doll of DSL, Inc.

Donna Matson, Forest Landscape Architect,  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest





## News From the Forest Service:

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

The start of 2015 has brought some much needed snow to Lolo Pass. As of the first of January, Lolo Pass had over fifty inches of snow on the ground and was off to a good winter season. All of the winter trails are being groomed and our avalanche beacon training park is up and running.

An exciting change for the 2015 winter season is the signing of a new agreement between the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, the Missoula Snowgoers Snowmobile Association and the Missoula Nordic Club to groom and maintain the ski trails at Lolo Pass. This new partnership will complement the existing snowmobile grooming in the area. Through these collaborative efforts, the Snowgoers will groom the winter trails and the Nordic Club will assist with ski trail maintenance. The goal for each organization is to provide everyone with an enjoyable, safe and quality winter recreation experience.



Photo courtesy of Nez Perce Tribe- DFRM Watershed

Once the snow melts, Lolo Pass Visitors may notice some changes on the grounds around the Visitor Center. This past fall a crew from the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management (DFRM) Watershed Division planted approximately 200 native trees and shrubs around the Lolo Pass Visitors Center back in October (*photo above*). Trees and shrubs were all native plants locally collected from seed or vegetative fragments back in October of 2012, and grown out at the Forest Service’s Coeur d’Alene Nursery. The hope is these native plants will survive much better than vegetation previously planted at the site since they’re naturally adapted to the sometimes harsh growing conditions. Additionally, due to the compacted granitic soils, planting sites were augmented with a compost based soil amendment which included beneficial mycorrhiza fungi to aid in water retention and nutrient uptake. Once established, these plants will provide shade and viewing pleasure for the many visitors as well as food to wildlife and pollinating insects like honey bees and butterflies.

Buffie Cerutti, Manager , Lolo Pass Visitor Center



## News From the Forest Service:

### Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest received \$36,000 from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). A great deal of work was accomplished with these funds. We annually maintain 18.5 miles of Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). Work included logging out wind felled trees and cleaning debris from waterbars (used to prevent erosion), culverts, and ditches. The work also follows congressional direction by removing cut debris from sight in the foreground and naturalizing the cut ends by chopping with axes, or texturizing with the chainsaw tip to appear “beaver chewed.”

Work was performed in cooperation with the Nez Perce tribal trail crew. The Nez Perce tribal trail crew has maintained the section of Trail from the trailhead at Musselshell Meadows to just above Beaver Dam Saddle since 2002. The partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe has been of great benefit to the objectives of the U.S. Forest Service and the NPNHT.



U.S. Forest Service Photo

NPNHT after being cleared of brush.

In the past year 5.8 miles of the NPNHT were cleared of brush and limbs. A corridor was cut out for hikers and stock along the NPNHT, measuring 10’ high and 8” wide. The focus of this work was along the old Pioneer Mine road. Brush was growing up and had become crowded with small conifers and had not been brushed since about 2001. *Continued on page 10*



This past summer staff from the Forest completed work on culvert replacement at Mile Post 4.2 on Saddle Camp Road 107, which is a connecting road between the Lolo Motorway, a segment of the NPNHT, and U.S. Highway 12.

Visitor service and interpretive program work in FY 2014 included funds allocated to the Lolo Pass Visitor Center for programs including an emphasis on the NPNHT and the Lolo Trail Steward Program which involved late summer and hunting season monitoring of campsites monitoring and visitor contacts.

Partnership work on the NPNHT included the following work performed by the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF): more than 400 volunteer hours along 20.5 miles of trail, 100 volunteers hours along various sections of Forest Road (FR) 500, 72 volunteer hours of campsite cleanup along FR 500 and 100 volunteer hours maintaining interpretive and directional trail markers in central Idaho. More than 20 volunteers from across the Pacific Northwest and California worked on these efforts. In total the LCTHF preformed more than 1000 hours' worth of volunteer work valued at nearly \$22,000. A big hand to everyone involved for your efforts.



LCTHF Volunteers 2014

Photo courtesy of Charles Raddon, Idaho Chapter LCTHF

Carol Hennessey  
Recreation, Wilderness, Outfitter & Guide, Trails & Rivers Program Manager  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



Photos courtesy of Charles Raddon, Idaho Chapter LCTHF

Interpretive sign at Gass Creek was removed and a new one installed by LCTHF volunteers.



## New Face in the National Trails System: U.S. Forest Service Hires New Florida National Scenic Trail Program Manager

Please join us in welcoming Shawn Thomas as the new Florida National Scenic Trail Program Manager! Shawn comes to the U.S. Forest Service with a wealth of resource management and recreation experience, including time served with the US Air Force and Peace Corps. Some of our Florida Trail Association volunteers may have had the pleasure of working with him in his former position as Fish, Wildlife, and Outdoor Recreation Program Manager at Avon Park Air Force Range.

Shawn reported to the National Forests in Florida Supervisor's Office in Tallahassee starting on November 3, 2014. Expect to see him on the Florida Trail soon!



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## Winter Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Moonrise over the Centennial Mountains, SW Montana. *Bob Wick, BLM photo*



Big Hole Badger. *National Park Service photo*



Nearly frozen Yellowstone Lake. *National Park Service photo*



Full moon over the Big Hole National Battlefield. *National Park Service photo*



Nez Perce National Historic Trail  
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