



## Nez Perce National Historic Trail



# Winter 2006 Progress Report

### Administrator's Corner

The NPNHT Administration is the leading government agency in caring for and improving the quality of life and ensuring a legacy for future generations along the trail. We are the official tourism destination marketing and management organization for the trail and its broad enjoyment which serves a extensive range of activities. It is through education, partnerships, and timely information resources that we can assist in promoting a full range of activities. I would like to share some insights I gained from the recent 18th National Trails Symposium in 2006.

I acknowledged that we are currently doing some important work along the trail in that we:

- Value our volunteers and tourism along the NPNHT,
- Incorporate community involvement in trail building,
- Incorporate art into the NPNHT trail and
- Build successful partnerships along the trail.

We want to continue to tell the world about our trail and lead to the beginning of a community network. We want to continue with art work along the trail and identify means to attract funding and technical assistance. We want to begin focusing on how to develop and maintain more snow covered winter trails for cross-country ski, snowshoe and snowmobile use. We want to pay attention to details once our trail is built, such as who should operate and maintain it. Another important issue we want to take advantage of is getting accessible trails on the ground in a variety of environments. Last, but not least is addressing the importance of sustainability including environmental, social and economic. Sustainable trails are best for the environment.

The NPNHT is a great equalizer where every person has a sense of belonging, of being "equal" as a human being and everyone visits our trail regardless of gender, age, physical ability and economic, social or ethnic background. That is why it is critical for us to continue with our good efforts and look to improving in other areas identified at the Trails Symposium. We will continue to strive for our dreams and not let obstacles stand in the way of achieving great things for the NPNHT.

In closing I want to say that I get to work with a group of the most passionate, positive, enthusiastic, service-oriented people around. A group of folks with tons of heart and a passel of soul. In fact, speaking of heart, my favorite value is just that, Heart is what defines the unique spirit and character of the partnerships with the NPNHT-a family of energetic, optimistic and enthusiastic people who enjoy what they do. From their heart comes the pride, commitment and-above all-the caring that truly sets trail partners apart.

*Sandi McFarland*  
NPNHT Administrator

"Every success is built on the ability to do better than good enough." Unknown

# NPNHT Fiscal Year 2006 Accomplishments

*Together we can accomplish what we can not do alone. Teamwork allows us to pool financial and human resources to meet mutual goals for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Without partnerships, these accomplishments would be only ideas and dreams. The following accomplishments resulted from working with those who share our goals and dedication.*

## **FY2006 Agreements:**

- MOU with National Park Service for interpretive review
- Costshare with Nez Perce Trail Foundation for trailwide services and site certifications
- Costshare with Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club for trailwide interpretive services
- Costshare with McCormack Landscape Design for two site certifications
- Participating Agreements with Nez Perce Tribe for job training projects

## **Working with Partners and Agencies to provide excellent information and services:**

- Coordinated with Nez Perce Tribe, Clearwater National Forest, National Park Service, and many local communities and organizations to present educational workshops for more than 4,000 students and teachers during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Event, "Summer of Peace."
- Developed Participating Agreement with Nez Perce Tribe to provide work experience/training for tribal members in developing interpretive materials.
- Developed Participating Agreement with Nez Perce Tribe to provide work experience/training for tribal members in trail maintenance and construction.
- Coordinated with cost share partners, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, local communities and NPS to provide interpretive presentations at several sites along the Trail, including Yellowstone NP.
- Coordinated with Nez Perce Trail Foundation to distribute hundreds of NPNHT brochures.
- Provided technical support for Clearwater NF's Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Heritage Preservation Plan and Lochsa Weeds EA.
- Reviewed and commented on Clearwater and Nez Perce NF's Forest Plan revision, B-D NEPA projects.
- Reviewed and commented on Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF's (B-D) NEPA projects.
- Assisted personnel at more than 25 visitor's centers Trail-wide with information requests, interpretive materials and displays.

## **Trail Maintenance and Construction and Certification:**

- 18 miles of trail maintenance – Clearwater NF
- 18 miles of naturalization – Clearwater NF
- 92 miles of signage maintained – Clearwater NF
- 6 of 11 miles new trail constructed – Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
- 3 new bridges constructed – Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
- 3 new trailhead interpretive markers – Gallatin NF
- Certified Baxter Spring, KS as NPNHT site with challenge cost share.
- Certified Quapaw, OK as NPNHT site with challenge cost share.
- Certified Fort Benton, MT as NPNHT site with cooperative agreement.

## **Interpretation:**

- Completed Interpretation Inventory
- Printed 10,000 Orofino to Lolo Auto Tour brochures
- Printed 5000 Leadore Auto Tour Brochures
- Printed 10000 Bitterroot Auto Tour Brochures
- Designed and printed 5000 NPNHT desk planners and distributed them across the nation, including the National Museum of the American Indian.
- Reprinted 5000 small NPNHT maps.
- Designed and printed and distributed 10,000 new posters.
- Provided research information, public affairs support and funding for Nez Perce Tribe's "Surviving Lewis & Clark: The Nimiipuu Story."
- Installed 9 interpretive panels on Clearwater National Forest along Highway 12 and Lolo Motorway
- Designed interpretive panels for three certified sites in Quapaw, OK, Baxter Springs, KS and Ft. Benton, MT.
- Sent traveling displays and educational trunks to 10 different education venues (mostly in the central US, well off the trail).

## **NPNHT Website:**

- Visitors from 110 countries
- 34,154 website visits (34% increase over last year!)
- Site available in 11 different languages!
- Nearly 500 web visitors submitted questions and requests for information.

## **Attendance at Conferences and Events:**

- Trails Advocacy Week (Presented)
- Yellowstone Center for Resources NPNHT Scholar Project (participant)
- Idaho Governor's Conference (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- Weippe Camas Festival (Interpretive Presentation)
- Summer of Peace (presented, staffed an exhibit)
- Lewis & Clark in the Rocky Mtns (staffed an exhibit)
- Nez Perce Tribe's General Council (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- Annual Lewis and Clark Symposium (Served on planning committee, provided teacher workshop, tour bus guide and staffed an exhibit)
- Nez Perce Trail Foundation Annual Meeting (Presented)
- Indian Education Summit (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- National Historic Trails Symposium (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- National Trails Symposium (Presented, entered poster session, staffed an exhibit)
- Sponsored 1st Annual NPNHT Partner Planning Meeting
- Fort Benton Certification and Dedication (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- Baxter Springs Certification and Dedication (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- Quapaw Certification and Dedication (Presented, staffed an exhibit)
- PACE (Preparing for Academic Excellence) summer camp for Indian youth (Presented educational workshops)
- Coordinated with Clearwater, Nez Perce and Idaho Panhandle National Forests to provide educational workshops at annual Native American Youth Camp.
- Coordinated with federal agencies to begin Comprehensive Management Plan Revision.
- Participated in more than 50 additional planning meetings and conference calls.

### **Educational Programs:**

- Presented 9 educational programs reaching about 200 elementary students and 100 Jr. High/High School students.
- Provide educational packets and materials to teachers, library and museum staffs, and youth group leaders for dozens of educational programs across the country.
- Reached an estimated 4,000 adults with 13 speaking engagements.

### **Benefits Realized:**

Our circle of partners, advocates and enthusiasts is rapidly growing. Our efforts to reach audiences beyond the NPNHT corridor has resulted in raising the awareness not only of the physical trail, but also of the somber history and colorful cultures associated with it. In doing so, we help facilitate cultural understanding and acceptance, increase sensitivity about cultural and emotional ties to this land, and promote trail stewardship, low-impact recreation, and ethical land use.

### **Proposed Work:**

- Continue to be the first and best source of information on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.
- Continue plans to develop a participating agreement with Chief Joseph Band of Colville Confederated Tribes for a job training project.
- Continue to improve our award-winning website to better serve both those who plan to travel the trail and those who cannot physically experience it. A design for a virtual tour map linked to 360 panoramic views, video and audio clips, and community Chamber of Commerce sites (to assist with travel planning) has been created. We plan to implement the design as soon as we have technical approval.
- A communication plan for gathering public information to begin revising the NPNHT Comprehensive Management Plan is underway. This plan will not only assist in revising the CMP, it will also provide a trail-wide key contacts list for media, agencies, communities, partners, etc. so that we can more efficiently and effectively reach our audiences along the route.
- Print and distribute auto-tour brochures and begin designing brochures for the segments not yet covered.
- Print and distribute general brochure
- Complete, print and distribute new sales map
- Develop and fabricate family of small, portable pop-up displays
- Continue to foster and support our outstanding partnerships
- Follow up the popular NPNHT desk planner with a 2008 edition.
- Develop, print and distribute interpretive materials specifically for children.
- Complete plans with Nez Perce Trail Foundation to provide interpretive panels at the Wallowa Band Interpretive Center and at a newly constructed rest area in Nespelem, Washington dedicated to the memory of Chief Joseph.

# PARTNERSHIP NEWS

## Nez Perce and Tonkawa Tribal Members Honor the Past by Brian McCormack



The new interpretive panel will greet visitors at the Nez Perce Cemetery.

Don Patterson, former President of the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, served as emcee of the ceremony. Don sprinkled the ceremony with jokes and reminisced about his days when he met some of our Nez Perce elders during his travels. We were welcomed to the former Nez Perce Homeland by Mr. Anthony Street, current Chairman of the Tonkawa Tribe. The Fort Oakland Ramblers, a Tonkawa drum group, opened the ceremonies with a Prayer Song, followed by Wally Wheeler, Nez Perce elder, who offered an opening prayer in Nimiipuutimt. An opening hymn was then sung by the Nez Perce elders.

Honored speakers during the two-hour ceremony included: Ms. Julia Davis-Wheeler, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC); Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator; Rex Ackerson, Director, A.D. Buck Museum, Tonkawa, Oklahoma; Larry O'Neal, Historical Researcher & Archivist, Baxter Heritage Center, Baxter Springs, Kansas; Darla Jackson, Charlies Moses, Jr., Albert Andrews Redstar, and Clifford Allen.

The ceremonies concluded with a closing prayer by Vera Sonneck, Nez Perce elder, followed by a "Traveling Song" and "Nez Perce Chief Song" by the Fort Oakland Ramblers, and a closing Nez Perce hymn by the Nez Perce elders. At the end of the ceremonies, Anthony Street, Sandi McFarland and Julia Davis-Wheeler cut the ribbon and unveiled the new full-color interpretive sign that will greet visitors to the Nez Perce Cemetery.

On Saturday, September 16, 2006 about 75 people attended the Site Certification Ceremony at Tonkawa, Oklahoma. The audience included at least 33 elders from the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, and another dozen or so Nez Perce descendants who traveled from Lapwai, Idaho; Nespelem, Washington; Chicago, Illinois; and areas of Oklahoma. The ceremony was also well attended by local residents, including members and leaders of the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, local historians and researchers, and the public at large. The ceremonies started a little past 9 a.m. at the Nez Perce Cemetery in Tonkawa.



Don Patterson



LEFT TO RIGHT: Anthony Street ,Chairman of the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator and Julia Davis-Wheeler, NPTEC cut the ribbon on the new interpretive sign as Nez Perce elders and descendants look on.

After the ceremonies, the Tonkawa tribe hosted a reception at the Henry L. Allen Building, their new tribal headquarters building in Tonkawa. Angel Sobotta and Dawn Leighton opened the reception by signing the Lord's Prayer in Nez Perce sign language. We were served a meal prepared by the Tonkawa tribal members. After everyone had eaten, gifts and awards were exchanged between the Nez Perce and Tonkawa tribal members. Sandi McFarland awarded certificates of appreciation to Anthony Street and Don Patterson, for their dedication to the project.

For many Nez Perce descendants, this was their first time to Oklahoma and the Nez Perce Cemetery. It was an emotional event at times, and the honored speakers shared Nez Perce history and personal recollections that will be cherished forever. All of us that have been involved in this project are forever grateful to our wonderful hosts, the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma. They have been excellent stewards of the Nez Perce Cemetery, and the friendships we have made will continue to keep the strong ties between the Nez Perce and Tonkawa people going into the future.



Tonkawa Tribe hosts a reception at their new Henry L. Allen tribal building.



Nez Perce tribal members and descendants view the new interpretive sign.



Julia Davis-Wheeler (NPTEC) and 40+ Nez Perce Tribal members attend the ceremony.

## Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club: Camas Meadows Memorial & Yellowstone Ride By Rosa Yearout

Between August 25 and September 4, 2006, two separate groups from the Nez Perce Reservation made the long trek to Buffalo Country (*Kuseyn*) to hold sacred ceremonies and to ride horses along the Nimípuu Trail in honor of the 129 anniversary of the flight that our ancestors made during this very same period in 1877 trying to elude capture by U.S. Army troops led by General Oliver Otis Howard and others.

First, Horace Axtell and Wilfred “Scotty” Scott accompanied by their family members, drummers, veterans and other Nimípuu, were at the Camas Meadows Battle site near the town of West Yellowstone to conduct a pipe ceremony. On the following day, Horace said they were honored to be invited to a retirement dinner for Frank Walker, Yellowstone Deputy Superintendent and past Nez Perce National Historical Park Superintendent.

Second, on Labor Day weekend, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPAPHC) members journeyed to Canyon Village in the center of Yellowstone National Park, where park officials arranged for overnight accommodations for the group and their horses.

The group paraded in traditional dress on horseback through the parking lot of the new Visitor’s Center and through the campground. The parade was then followed by an hour presentation at the amphitheater, which was packed. Angel Sobotta and Rosa Yearout did this presentation assisted by Aaron Penney, Emmitt Taylor, Josh and Dawn Leighton, and Bob Sobotta, who spoke of their ancestors and their careers. The audience seemed especially fascinated by these personal stories and asked many questions and met the descendants afterwards. The NPNHT Administration provided Chief Joseph posters, brochures, pens, and buttons that were very popular.

This journey ended on the following day with an unforgettable 18-mile ride through the Pelican Valley, which was led by Lake District Backcountry Ranger Brad Rose; Gerald Mernin, retired Yellowstone Park Ranger and Historian; Rosemary Sucec, Cultural Director and Katie White, Cultural Resources Technician. We were riding on the same ground that our ancestors had traveled and camped in 1877. Before the ride ended, we were privileged to view two adult grizzlies and two bear cubs, a wolf pack and several herds of bison in their natural habitat.

The NPAPHC’s trip was made possible under an agreement with the NPNHT Administration and the Clearwater National Forest to support and bring awareness of the Nez Perce Trail to the general public. We came to educate and share about our families and horses, but were again rewarded with a connection to our history and our ancestors.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rosa Yearout and Angel Sobotta

## Nez Perce Trail Foundation: Nez Perce Ride To Freedom

August 29-31, 2006 the Nez Perce Trail Foundation and the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada held the 1st annual historical trail ride honoring the Nez Perce people who fled from the Bear Paw Battlefield in 1877 seeking refuge in Canada with Sitting Bull's Sioux. Due to extreme fire danger the ride was downsized and riders were accompanied by a wildland fire engine.

Thirty riders participated in this ride that began at the Historical Reesor Ranch headquarters in the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan. The riders left Reesor Ranch for Fort Walsh where park personnel gave a tour of Fort Walsh and described the meeting of the escaping Nez Perce and the Royal Mounted Police.

Each evening riders experienced a great meal, a program about the Nez Perce refugees who were led by White Bird, and music and dancing

Gail Praharenka and Jim Evans, organizers of this event are working on a similar ride for 2007. They are currently planning some time in June to escape fire season. Exact dates are not known at this time. For more information visit <http://nezpercetrail.net>. So plan on attending in 2007.



Gail Praharenka, Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada and Jim Evans, Nez Perce Trail Foundation are greeted by Fort Walsh Royal Mounted Policeman.

## Wallowa Interpretation Project

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation and Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center partnered in a project to create some interpretation near Tick Hill.

The project's first phase is complete with the placement of three silhouettes depicting the departure of a Nez Perce family from their Wallowa Valley homeland. These silhouettes were designed by Dan Jones.

The second phase of this project will be landscaping and the installation of interpretive signs in the spring of 2007 which is funded in part through a challenge cost share with the NPNHT Administration.

This project was also funded through a grant with the Oregon Community Foundation.



Dan Jones, Bernadine Ellenwood, Margaret Moses, Dick Seymour, Charlie Moses, Jr., Lynn Fleming and Carolynne Merrell



# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NEWS

## Nez Perce National Historical Park Museum Collections

The Fall 2006 National Park Service magazine *Common Ground* introduced a web exhibit that chronicles the storied past of the Nez Perce. Today, the tribe's ancient presence and its more recent and tragic history are commemorated at the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP). The park's museum holds over a million objects in its collection, an incomparable document of Nez Perce history and culture. The clothing, ornaments, tools, bags, basketry and oral history are the focus of a new online exhibit produced by the park and the museum management program of the National Park Service in consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe.

The collection is a narrative of the Nez Perce experience. The artifacts are a living part of the culture. They express what it means to be *Nimípuu*, as the Nez Perce call themselves.

This incredible online exhibit can be found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/nepe/index.html>.

## Happenings at Nez Perce National Historical Park

The NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network Inventory and Monitoring program partnered with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) Summer Salmon Camp to develop and implement a pilot vegetation monitoring program for the park's 275-acre Weippe Prairie site near Weippe, Idaho. This will become a long-term vegetation monitoring project for native camas.

In 2001, NPNHP received \$280,000 in project funds to plan, design and install over 50 interpretive signs at various park sites. In July, new panels were installed at the Big Hole National Battlefield, Canyon Creek and Bear Paw Battlefield, with others to be installed next spring at White Bird Battlefield.

An important component of this project was the commissioning of original artwork by Nez Perce artist Nakia Williamson-Cloud to illustrate key events of 1877. Additional paintings were commissioned by the Forest Service. In recognition of his graphic contribution, and in association with the Forest Service, NPS mounted a public exhibition of Nakia's works at the Park's Spalding Visitor Center.

A cultural landscape restoration project was completed at the Big Hole Visitor Center. Willows and trees were removed from the hillside below the visitor center along two private irrigation canals, and a substance was used to line the canals to prevent water seepage. A six-acre prescribed understory burn was conducted on the south flank of Battle Mountain above the siege area to maintain the forest landscape.

The new Joseph Canyon Overlook site features improved parking and a restroom. The Oregon Community Foundation also invested in developing interpretive panels which were installed in June.

Two Oregon Youth Conservation Corps crews and representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, USFS, USFWS and NPS conducted a survey of Spalding's Catchfly, a threatened and endangered plant species on August 3. The Nez Perce Tribe, NPNHT and NPS provided tokens of appreciation to the participants.

## Camas Meadows Battlefield Archaeological Survey

The National Park Service, in conjunction with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Nez Perce Tribe, have developed a proposal to perform the first professional archaeological examination of the Camas Meadows Battlefield complex near Kilgore, Idaho. This project, if funded, will convene a team of experts in regional archaeology, lichenology, and historic battlefield studies to inventory and record the zones of combat for the Camas Meadows Battlefield sites using a multi-disciplinary approach. The purpose of this study will be to identify what is archaeologically present at the battlefield sites to align the historic accounts of the battle with the actual resources remaining. Only through this detailed analysis, can we fully understand the integrity of the resources present at the site and how those resources fit into the picture of the Camas Meadows Battle and the larger Nez Perce War.

## Fisher leaves the Big Hole

Tim Fisher, Lead Park Ranger at the Big Hole National Battlefield recently accepted the Visitor Center Director at Ketchikan Misty Fiords Ranger District Discovery Center, Tongass National Forest in Ketchikan, Alaska. Tim has led the Interpretation and Resource Management program at the Big Hole since 1998. He was responsible for establishing the natural resource management program at the Big Hole. Tim began his NPS career in 1983 as a Student Conservation Association Intern at Natural Bridges National Monument. He worked seasonally from 1986 until 1988 and got his first permanent job at Lowell NHP in 1988.



## Robert West Leaves Bear Paw for the Big Hole

Robert West, Park Ranger for the Bear Paw Battlefield assumed Tim Fisher's lead park ranger duties at the Big Hole National Battlefield on November 13, 2006. Robert was a seasonal park ranger at Big Hole prior to moving to the Bear Paw.

## Frank Walker Retires

Franklin C. Walker retired from Yellowstone National Park as Deputy Superintendent in August 2006 after serving 39 years with the National Park Service. Frank had served as the Superintendent of the Nez Perce National Historical Park from 1990-1998.

## Along the Nez Perce Trail in Yellowstone National Park

By Rosemary Sucec



Joseph Alexander, Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation archaeologist holds up a bullet found at one of the Nez Perce camp sites.

During August of 2006, Yellowstone National Park, with its partners the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), the Chief Joseph Band of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation (CTCIR), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), visited and documented the archaeology and ethnography of five locations in the park where the Nez Perce encountered tourists or are believed to have camped in the summer of 1877. The project was funded through the Yellowstone Park Foundation. The inventory successfully used metal detectors as the primary discovery technique at each of the locations examined. Shallowly buried archaeological remains from the Nez Perce and U.S. Army in 1877 were identified and documented for each of the five sites. Nez Perce artifacts were left in place. The success of the project was also largely a result of the teamwork and full collaborative partnership between the NPT, CTCIR, CTUIR, and Yellowstone National Park. This pilot project whose results will be the initial date in a larger, trail-wide inventory in Yellowstone commencing in 2008. The documentation of artifacts found along the NPNHT in Yellowstone NP will continue to not only help park managers protect NPNHT sites, but facilitate the interpretation of the trail to Yellowstone's visitors.

## Third Annual Nez Perce Memorial Ceremony in YNP

On the morning of August 26, several dozen Nez Perce tribal members, together with park staff, and passing tourists gathered at the confluence of the Firehole River and the Nez Perce Creek, at the site where the Nez Perce forded the river traveling east through YNP in 1877 to honor veterans of the war of 1877 as well as veterans from all wars. The ceremony created understanding and built friendships between the Nez Perce and other peoples. Horace Axtell, leader of the Nez Perce traditional Seven Drum religion, and Wilfred Scott, a Nez Perce elder, conducted the traditional pipe ceremony. The ceremony included singing, drumming and speeches in English and Nez Perce about the war, memories, and forgiveness. In his last official act as Deputy Superintendent, Frank Walker joined half a dozen other tourists and park staff in smoking two traditional pipes with the Nez Perce. Women veterans and men were all invited to join the circle and smoke the pipe. Everyone in attendance was invited to share their feelings and thoughts. Some tourists, park staff, and Nez Perce all expressed their deep appreciation of the ceremony and what it meant to bridge the gaps of culture and history with this memorial ceremony. Park Ranger Tim Townsend was honored to be a part of the ceremony and felt it helped him make a connection to 1877. He expressed his appreciation of Yellowstone for preserving historic places like the site of the ceremony when he commented that, “there are few places on the Nez Perce Trail that are unchanged and that makes me realize how special Yellowstone is, for its preservation.” In a touching moment, Horace Axtell and Wilfred Scott, noted the four small children in attendance and gave each a present. Mr. Axtell told the parents not to reprimand their children for playing during the ceremony, encouraging their parents to “let them be children.” Mr. Axtell spoke of the 1877 war and related a story of violence against a child in the 1877 war and that story made him further treasure children. Later, gifts were given to all those in attendance. On behalf of Yellowstone National Park Frank Walker presented the two spiritual leaders—Horace Axtell and Wilfred Scott—with Yellowstone commemorative coins. The real gift, however, was the offer of friendship and compassion that was exchanged between the Park Service and the Nez Perce. Mr. Axtell spoke eloquently, reminding us that, “life isn’t always easy, but sometimes it is beautiful. And we try to make it more beautiful with our togetherness. That is why we pass this pipe around today.”



From left: Leroy Seth, Josiah Pinkham, Pete Wilson, Donald Powaukee, and 2006 Miss Looking Glass Princess drum



Frank Walker, Horace Axtell and Wilfred “Scottie” Scott

In 1877 the Nez Perce crossed the Firehole River and followed the creek (now known as Nez Perce Creek) east through the park to the Yellowstone River. Coming back to this historic place of their ancestors allows the Nez Perce to honor their history and to pass on this history to their children. For drummer and singer Pete Wilson, the ceremony was a chance both to honor his ancestors and to learn more about his history. The traumas of the war of 1877 are still alive in the hearts and minds of many Nez Perce and an event such as this helps to console that trauma. These events are especially important for younger members of the tribe as they teach youth about their history. It is important for all Americans, and especially those in the Park Service which deals directly with lands that are sacred to the Nez Perce, to recognize and acknowledge what happened during 1877. This understanding can help the Nez Perce to heal the wounds of their past.

## Riding through History

Members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPpHC) shared the history and culture of the Nez Perce with over 100 visitors at the Canyon Amphitheater on September 2. Commencing with a parade of 12 horses and riders in full regalia, the evening continued with an hour long presentation by NPpHC members. Direct descendents of the 1877 war leaders and warriors shared their ancestors' stories of the war and what those stories mean for them today. Audience members listened eagerly as the Nez Perce brought their history alive with horses, traditional dress, and maps. Rosa Yearout, one of the founders of the

NPpHC, explained that the whole trail is extremely sacred to the Nez Perce as people struggled, suffered, and passed away along its path. Angel Sobotta shared a touching story. She told of when Lean Elk (Poker Joe) encountered the Cowan-Carpenter tourist party while traveling through YNP during the war. She explained how after shaking the hand of Mr. Cowan, Lean Elk remarked that he could no longer kill the tourist, for now he had seen Cowan's humanity. It is this history that makes coming to the park today so meaningful for many Nez Perce. The Nez Perce are more than just tourists: they have a strong history and a deep connection to the land. All the Nez Perce in attendance shared their personal lineage, job, and feelings about being within the sacred landscape of Yellowstone. When the time came for questions, hands shot up in the air, and after the program, the audience flooded down to the stage to talk to the tribal members and collect informational materials about the war and the Nez Perce. Afterwards, audience members commented that the program was both engaging and educational and that they loved the opportunity to see the traditional dress and hear the stories from the Nez Perce. Rosa Yearout was thrilled to be able to share her people's story with so large an audience. Some who attended had never heard of the Nez Perce Tribe before. Some guests commented that they will return from their vacation with an understanding that the park is not only a place of natural wonders, but of historical and cultural wonders as well. The chance to teach these people about the Nez Perce, while in the place and season that the events of 1877 took place was a unique opportunity for the Park. The Ethnography Program and East Interpretive Ranger Michael Stuckey, who helped facilitate the program, hopes that the park can hold more such events in the future.

On the following day, ten Nez Perce tribal members were joined by NPS cultural staff, Rosemary Sucec and Katie White, as well as NPS Park Rangers, Jerry Mernin and Brad Ross, for a trail ride along the NPNHT. The 18-mile ride through Pelican Valley traveled along where the ancestors of the Nez Perce rode and walked in 1877. Rider Aaron Penny was excited to be "tracing the route on our horses and going into the backcountry, to see what our ancestors saw." This was the third time the NPpHC has ridden through the park in memory of the 1877 war.



Angel Sobotta and son dismount horse at Yellowstone's Canyon Amphitheatre.

# FOREST SERVICE NEWS



## 4th Annual Lolo Trail Ranger Yearend Report by Bryce Parker and Andy Kulla

The Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest staffed a Lolo National Historic Trail (NHT) Ranger between two employees who were on duty between February and September of 2006. This position was responsible for scheduling interpretive programs, monitoring public use, providing visitor information, leading weekly trail hikes and monitoring two archaeology sites along the NHT. This summer the Lolo Trail Ranger patrolled the entire 14 miles of NHT within Montana and continued posting and replacing NPNHT trail markers. Other duties also included litter cleanup, maintaining developed recreation sites, photographing and monitoring two archaeological sites and cutting out and maintaining the NHT.

We saw a decrease in hiker use this year with only 348 registered hikers using the NHT. Most of these users were from out of state and traveling the Lewis and Clark NHT. Twenty-one interpretive programs were arranged with 363 attendees.

In 2004, we identified a section of the NHT behind Lolo Hot Springs that was thought to be on Plum Creek Timber Company Land. At this time Plum Creek asked if there were any other sections of historic trail right of ways (ROW'S) we would be interested in. We identified the historic Wagon Mountain Trail out of Lee Creek Campground that connects to the NHT. The total ROW requested is 2.12 miles and 3.86 acres. As of October 19, 2006 we are awaiting a reply from Plum Creek as to whether our offer has been accepted.

We began weed management in 2004, primarily mapping the areas of investment. In 2005, we started herbicide treatment on 6.5 miles of trail from Packer Meadows to Fish Creek and re-treated this area again in 2006. We also began a herbicide treatment from Fish Creek to Cedar Run in 2006. This section of trail from Cedar Run to Howard Creek was perfect to try a bio control (*Cyphocleonus achetes*) for treatment of Spotted Knapweed.

The signs vandalized in 2005 were replaced in 2006. It was decided to have a stock of replacements on hand in case of future damage.

## Nez Perce and Lewis & Clark Interpretation Along the Lolo Motorway

The Clearwater National Forest installed a series of interpretive signs along the Lolo Motorway the fall of 2006. This family of signs are designed to work together along with the signs along Highway 12. These signs were funded through capital improvement and Lewis and Clark Bicentennial funds. The sign text and designs were developed by the Bicentennial Committee, while Heritage Design, a Forest Service Enterprise Team, was responsible for the final design and production. The bases in which these signs were placed were built by Hart Paulat, Lochsa District Maintenance using a 1930 design. Hart and Kris Perry, Clearwater National Forest Assistant Bicentennial Coordinator were instrumental in getting these signs all installed and were assisted by the Clearwater National Forest Road Crew and some Lochsa District employees. Kudos to all - they look great and the general public really likes them. Sadly these signs had only been installed a few weeks before somebody decided to shoot the pheasant depicted on the sign at Pheasant Camp.



Milo McLeod, Lolo NF Archaeologist,  
leading a hike.

## Lolo Motorway Interpretation continued



*Innamatnoon Likoolam (Grizzly Bear Saddle)*  
Interpretive Panels



Indian Post Office Interpretive Sign

## Clearwater National Forest Trail Maintenance and Naturalization

The Clearwater National Forest conducted 18 miles of trail maintenance and naturalization along the NPNHT under the participating agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe to capitalize on a workforce training program.

## Beaverhead-Deerlodge Trail Project

We introduced this trail project in the Summer 2006 Progress Report. This new trail construction is possible through a two year participating agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe. On July 10, the Nez Perce Tribe trail crew started constructing 6 of the 11 mile segment which connects Gibbons Pass to the Big Hole National Battlefield. This project also consists of segments of the Old Yellowstone Trail or Park to Park Highway. This project is planned to be completed in 2007

Nez Perce Tribe Trail Crew:  
Mike McFarland, Mario Colucci, Wisdom Ranger District Forestry Technician, Dave Morrell, Abe Yearout, Tim Nasonhoya and Ben Hines Jr., laying out one of the three three-stringer bridges completed in 2006. It is planned for at least three more bridges next year.



Sandi McFarland nailing on the planking of one of three stringer bridges.

# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS



## Annual Birch Creek Archaeological & Historic Sites & Nez Perce National Historic Trail Tour

Each spring for nearly ten years, the Upper Snake River Field Office has hosted an annual public field tour of selected archaeological and historic sites in the Birch Creek Valley, including the NPNHT. Led by the field office's cultural resource staff, the public is provided with a unique opportunity to visit and learn about early human occupations in Idaho, Native American rock art sites, historic mining and town sites and sites associated with the NPNHT. This is a Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month sponsored event.

## Nez Perce National Historic Trails Planning, Salmon Field Office

In 2005, the Salmon Field Office (Salmon, ID) initiated a planning effort for national historic and scenic trails within the field office including the NPNHT.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- 1) identify short term management direction for trail related facilities development and other site-specific management actions,
- 2) identify appropriate long term management direction, emphasizing retention of the scenic and historic landscape settings that make these trails a unique resource and
- 3) clarify which portions of the planning area would be more developed and receive intensive visitor use and which areas would remain undeveloped and receive less use.

Specific objectives and anticipated outcomes of the planning effort are to:

- make management recommendations for existing National Trail related facilities and identify any need for further development to accommodate visitor use,
- make recommendations that emphasize protection and retention of those scenic and historic landscape settings that make our National Trails a unique resource and
- promote solutions to both ongoing and anticipated resource management concerns and issues.

The plan will tier to NPNHT Comprehensive Management Plan and BLM's National Historic and Scenic Trails Strategy.

## 18th National Trails Symposium

This year's symposium was held in the Quad Cities, Iowa & Illinois through October 19-22, 2006. The theme for this year's symposium was "Trails for America: Every Where, Every Way, Every Day." Some 600 people attended this symposium. The symposium included speakers from across the U.S. and abroad including Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator. Sandi presented on Thursday, October 19 in the "Building Trails Public Awareness" Event. This session was open to the public to allow the local community to attend and participate with the exhibitors. The trails Exhibit Hall had over 125 booths representing trail-related businesses, agencies, and organizations from all over the country and featured two displays one belonging to the NPNHT Administration and one from the Clearwater National Forest featuring "Walking On Sacred Ground," a display made in partnership with the NPNHT Administration.

The poster session was a huge success and due to the large number and quality of proposals the poster program was expanded to allow for more information exchange. We had an opportunity to share our story and to meet with interested attendees at designated times during the symposium. Along with NPNHT, Heritage Design also presented a poster which highlighted the NPNHT and our partnerships.

Due to NPNHT Administration participation during the symposium we were a Kingfisher Sponsor which is either a \$300-\$600 cash contribution or the equivalent value of in-kind products or services.



## Tread Lightly!'s New Online Awareness Course

The highly anticipated Tread Lightly!™ Awareness Course is now live and available online. Anyone who goes ATV riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, or owns a four wheel drive should take this course! Land and water managers are also encouraged to use it in their educational programs.

The free 30-minute interactive course covers all the essential outdoor ethics. Check it out today at <http://www.treadlightly.org/images.education/tlac>. You may need to temporarily disable your popup blocker.

## New TREAD Principles Unveiled

Tread Lightly! has enhanced the TREAD Principles to be more straightforward and detailed to cover the basics of how to minimize impacts.

### Tread Lightly! On Land...

**TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY** on roads and trails or in permitted areas.

**RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS** including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

**EDUCATE YOURSELF** by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

**AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS** such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage.

**DO YOUR PART** by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

# Kids & Camas Meadows



Ms. Kidd's Fourth Grade Class, Lindy Ross Elementary, Dubois, Idaho at the Camas Meadows Battle site. Ms. Kidd takes her students on an annual field trip to Camas Meadows and Birch Creek sites.

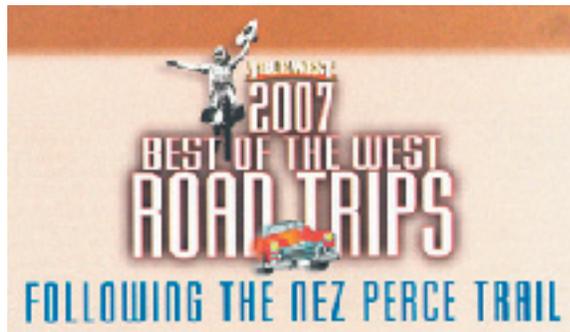


Youth from the St. Anthony Juvenile Corrections Center visit the grave of Bugler Bernard A. Brooks. JCCS, with permission of the Idaho Historic Society, the Brooks family and the landowner, completed a work project at this site. An iron fence was set in cement around the grave. In the future a sign will be posted that identifies the grave as an Idaho historic site.



The Nez Perce Tribe hosted the 2006 Annual Preparation for Academic Excellence Math and Science Camp this summer with a variety of programs in natural resources and the environment. The NPNHT and Clearwater National Forest presented an archaeology lecture.

*True West Magazine  
named the NPNHT one of  
the West's best trips!*



**Happy Holidays!**

*Sandi*

*Christine*

*Carolyn*