



NEZ PERCE (NEE-ME-POO) NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Progress Report

February 1999

From the NPNHT Coordinator

The Trail Behind, The Trail Ahead...

Happy New Year! As we begin 1999 and look forward to the Millennium, it's timely to consider the Nez Perce National Historic Trail from the broadest perspective, to reexamine the objectives of Congress when they designated the trail and assess the degree to which those objectives are being achieved today.

Congress passed the National Trails System Act in 1968 to institute a national system of recreation, scenic and historic trails which would (paraphrasing from the act):

- (a) provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population,
- (b) promote the preservation of public access to, travel within, and the enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation,
- (c) to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management, where appropriate, of trails.

Specifically the crafters of this far-sighted law wrote that "*National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.*"

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail was added to the National Trails System in 1986. Since that time a coalition of NPNHT supporters have worked to fulfill that original purpose. Federal agency personnel have joined with Tribal governments, private individuals, and state agencies to mark both the actual historic route and a parallel auto-tour route. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation has increasingly provided an avenue for individuals to explore NPNHT history and to express views on how the trail should be preserved and managed..

Though the Trail has been identified and marked throughout the Federal lands, our knowledge continues to expand as a result of scholarly research. This new knowledge may require a re-examination of the designated NPNHT route. Despite much planning, research, and preservation on Federal Lands,

management goals for the trail are still not clearly articulated in all land management plans.

And what of the preservation of the Trail on state and private lands which can only become part of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail at the request of land owners? Local organizations, such as the Friends of Canyon Creek have taken the lead in preserving and interpreting key historic sites that have not been as well known or marked and which may be threatened by changes in land use. Some communities such as Fort Benton, have asked how they can be recognized as part of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

There is clearly much to be done to complete the identification and refinement of our knowledge of the historic routes and sites; to insure that sensitive and important trail sites are managed with an eye to preservation and appropriate public use; and to build public awareness of and participation in NPNHT management so that the trail continues to receive the attention it needs to insure it's preservation. Fortunately, the community of NPNHT supporters continues to grow.

This progress report merely hints at how much is going on along the trail. Many important projects are not even mentioned but will be discussed in upcoming reports. The diversity of efforts by tribes, agencies, organizations and volunteers working together is the best sign that the future of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail is in the best of hands.

Keith Thurlkill

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Interagency Coordination Meetings

The East Side Nez Perce Trail Coordination meeting was hosted by the Montana Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Office in Billings, Montana on September 30th. Although the turnout in was small, those who attended shared a wide range of thoughts and ideas about trail-related issues. Among the items discussed...

" the need to create a NPNHT website. This website would act as a central clearinghouse for trail information and provide links to other Nez Perce-related sites scattered across the internet.

" community involvement in the NPNHT will be enhanced with the development of a trail certification program. Once in place this will help private landowners with trail segments located on their property to better understand their management options.

"J.R. Strand, president of the Lewistown (MT) Chamber of Commerce, noted that they currently hand out information on the NPNHT. The old Reed & Bowles trading post located just outside of Lewistown has a historical connection to the 1877 Nez Perce flight but, at present, contains no information on the Nez Perce, who traded there on their way north towards Canada. For more information contact the Lewistown Chamber of Commerce at 406-538-5436, or visit their website at lewchamb@lewistown.net.

The highlight of the Billings meeting was a presentation by Stan Hoggett. Stan and his wife, Suzy, run Western Treasures, a company that conducts pack trips along segments of the NPNHT in and around Yellowstone National Park. Stan also teaches a class on the Nez Perce at Rocky Mountain College in Billings and has conducted extensive research to determine the route of the Nez Perce as they travelled out of Yellowstone Park, past Dead Indian Hill, and on towards the Clarks Fork River. He showed maps that depict the route as indicated by extensive historical research. Stan recently produced a manuscript focusing on key historical documentation, which will be available through the Western Treasures website sometime in late December. You can visit Western Treasures online at WWW.NEZPERCE.COM

Following the Billings meeting, Keith Thurkill and Dan Gard visited with Kim Wombolt of the Laurel Chamber of Commerce. Kim discussed the importance of acknowledging and interpreting the historic events that took place near Laurel in 1877. A statue of Chief Joseph, along with a brief inscription stands in Fireman's Park.

A meeting was also held with Milt Wester, who is currently involved with the Friends of Canyon Creek. Plans are in place to build an interpretive kiosk at or near the present site of the Canyon Creek marker. The Friends have a cooperative agreement with the Park Service for

interpretation at the kiosk, while the Friends will carry out maintenance at the site. There is an agreement in place with the Montana Department of Transportation to pave a small parking lot at the kiosk in conjunction with on-going road work on State Hwy. 532, which is being widened and paved from the junction of Lipp Road to State Hwy 302 near Molt. Local landowners are willing to work with the Friends and have supported their efforts thus far. Money to help fund this project comes from the Community Transportation Enhancement Project (CTEP).

Dan Gard
Lolo National Forest

The West Side NPNHT Coordination Meeting was hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 14, 1998 at the Dworshak Fish Hatchery Facility in Ahsahka, Idaho.

Approximately 18 people gathered from the Nez Perce National Historical Park, Clearwater and Lolo National Forests, Nez Perce National Historical Trail Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Folks shared information on topics such as the status of Lolo Pass, plans for the upcoming L&C Bicentennial, heritage resource issues, and educational and interpretive efforts.

After formal presentations were completed the group traveled east to Kooskia where they made a stop at the Kooskia Kiosk to view the interpretive panel on the Nez Perce Flight of 1877 produced by the Nez Perce National Historical Park. A second stop included viewing a mural depicting the Kooskia townsite in 1806 as seen by the Lewis & Clark Expedition and their Nez Perce guides. Kooskia area artist Robert Thomas created the image with assistance from Greg Lewis' art class, as well as other student volunteers.

Later, a field trip to the Kooskia Fish Hatchery Complex Interpretive Trail was led by our host, Susan Sawyer, Education Specialist, and Kip Bottomly, Manager of Kooskia Fish Hatchery. We visited the site where a network of short, accessible trails will interpret the rich cultural heritage of the Nez Perce along with the natural history of the area. The group had an opportunity to see the McWhorter Plaque, which was placed near here in 1928 to commemorate the site where the village of Chief Looking Glass was attacked on the morning of July 1, 1877 (formally Clear Creek). The solitary monument and plaque that marks this site is one of six that were erected at battle sites along the route of the Nez Perce.

Sandi McFarland
Clearwater National Forest

(Notes from the Billings and Ahsahka meetings are available. To obtain a copy contact Dan Gard at 406-329-1005).



What's New On The Trail?

Lolo Pass Project Update

The Clearwater National Forest (Idaho) and the Lolo National Forest (Montana) join at the State line at Lolo Pass on U.S. Highway 12. Lewis and Clark passed through this area during their 1805 expedition from St. Louis to the west coast and again on their return trip in 1806. Today, over 30,000 people stop at Lolo Pass each summer, and another 10,000 utilize the site for recreation opportunities each winter. Tourist traffic on the highway has increased nearly 300% since the first visitor center was established at Lolo Pass back in 1970. The upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial will attract significant numbers of people from throughout the world to the national forests in the area, adding significantly to that upward trend in visitor use.

Through a cooperative effort between the Idaho and Montana Departments of Transportation and the Clearwater National Forest, the Lolo Pass Visitor Center will be greatly improved. New restrooms, a larger visitor center, expanded parking, better picnic facilities, and more complete interpretive displays are being proposed to improve both safety and visitor accommodations. The entrance to the site from the highway will be redesigned to improve visibility and safety.

An environmental assessment for the proposed \$4 million project was released for public review in June, 1998. The decision notice, issued September 10, 1998, received no appeals. The next step is to award a contract for design of the project with construction tentatively planned to begin in the year 2000.

For more information contact: Diana Jones (208) 476-4541

Lolo Trail L&C Bicentennial Interpretive Planning Efforts

The Clearwater National Forest has started the planning process for interpretation related to the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. This commemoration will present an opportunity to provide accurate and sensitive interpretation concerning this event. The planning process involved two Interpretive Charrettes. Each one brought together a diverse group of people, including agency representatives, historians, scholars, professors, community members, Tribal, and other interest groups. Together they shared ideas on ways to identify themes, topics, storylines, as well as discussing sites and medias to use in interpreting this event.

The first charrette was hosted by the Nez Perce National Historical Park at Spalding on May 11-12, 1998. Don Kodak, Interpretive Planner from the

National Park Service served as facilitator. A second charrette, held on October 20th at the Clearwater Supervisor's Office in Orofino, Idaho was facilitated by Marie Marek, Supervisory Park Ranger. The purpose of the charrette was to develop the groundwork for an interpretive plan that will address the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

Both charrettes involved approximately 16 people who worked very hard to come up with ideas for producing a focused result. Information from these charrettes will be utilized in developing a Forest Interpretive Plan for the L&C Bicentennial that will serve to address needed interpretive concerns and compliment existing plans. The completion of the Draft Interpretive Plan is scheduled for spring of 1999.

Sandi McFarland
Clearwater National Forest

Starr Maxwell Exhibit

The Nez Perce National Historical Park is featuring an exhibit on Starr J. Maxwell (1870-1940), a well known Nez Perce who worked various capacities as an interpreter, notary public, counselor, minister, courier, and judge. The exhibit runs through March.

Family members, or anyone else who knew Starr, that would like to share their knowledge of him are asked to contact Diane Mallikan or Alyse Cadez at the Park at (208) 843-2261. Read more about this outstanding tribal member in an article titled "Born Under A Star" on page 8.





Clearwater National Forest Seeks Input For the L&C Bicentennial Proposed Strategy

With predictions of large increases in new visitors to the Clearwater National Forest during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (2004-2006), the Forest felt a need to prepare for the event, and look at options to accommodate visitors, as well as protect the sensitive resources that may be in peril from uncontrolled overuse

The Forest has in its care two National Historic Trails, the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) and the Lewis and Clark, as well as an historic road (Lolo Motorway), cultural sites, Nez Perce tribal gathering areas, and high elevation environments all within what is called the Lolo Trail Corridor. In developing goals for managing the Lolo Trail, protecting these resources came out at the top of the list.

Other goals are to provide a self-discovery experience for visitors, provide interpretation and information, to minimize changes to the existing condition, and to have road and trail signs reflect the 1930's vintage of the Lolo Motorway.

While it is assumed that the vast majority of visitors to the Forest will stay on Highway 12 and not travel the Lolo Trail Corridor, there will be enough visitors wanting to experience the Lolo Trail that some degree of control is necessary to protect the many resources in the corridor. Based on anticipated traffic a permit system would implement the following requirements:

Visitors would have to apply for a permit costing \$25.00 before traveling in the corridor.

Only a specified number of visitors and vehicles would be allowed in the corridor.

Vehicle size limitations would be imposed as well as restrictions on trailer towing.

Visitors would have to register for campsites, and would only be allowed eight days in the corridor.

There would be only one entrance to the corridor.

The Clearwater National Forest has portions of the historic trails that are outside the Lolo Trail Corridor as well, in more developed areas where there are paved and wide graveled roads, developed campgrounds and picnic areas. There are opportunities in those areas to accommodate more people. Although the resources are equally important for protection in these areas, they are less sensitive and more durable in those sites.

The Forest just recently began distributing the Proposed Strategy to the public and would like to hear comments and concerns before they finalize their plans. There is a brochure available which describes the Strategy in more detail if anyone is interested. If you would like the brochure, would like to comment, or receive more information, please contact...

Linda Fee, Bicentennial Coordinator
Kooskia Ranger Station
Rt 1, Box 398
Kooskia, ID 83539
Phone: (208) 926-4274

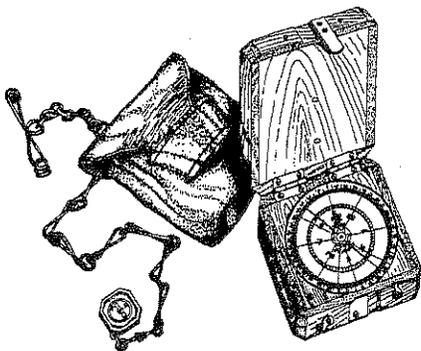


Cultural Resource Mgt: The Lolo Trail In Regards To The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

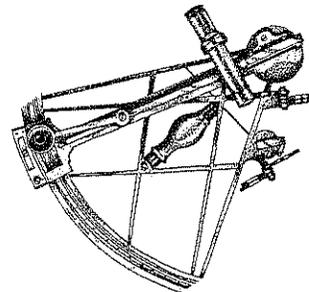
As the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition's 1805-1806 travels along the route today, the heritage resource management of this national historic landmark involves as much interpretation as recording of sites. The trail itself, viewed by the public as a route of travel taken by the expedition traveling east to west and back is often portrayed, as a simple line of travel. In reality the expedition's route followed a landscape where movement necessitated the use of an existing transportation system used by the Nez Perce and Flathead peoples. Defining these trail segments is a part of the heritage resource management program and the telling of the story of these and other associated trail systems is more complicated than simply drawing a linear trail route line on a map.

One area of new research that may help in ferreting out these various trail segments is infrared photography. Its ability to pick out buried trail tread segments may offer an opportunity to date and further study individual trail segments that can eventually be tied back into the larger trail system.

Another important element of work along the Lewis and Clark trail corridor is the identification and interpretation of sites irrespective of the trails associated with them. It should be remembered that locating and identifying is generally easier than accurate determination as to the function or stated purpose. For example, rock cairns circular in shape with average heights ranging from fifty centimeters to two meters have been recorded in the Lewis and Clark Journals. The cairns were initially constructed and used by Nez Perce people. Similar features in more recent times were built by various groups of people who had no association with Nez Perce lifeways and who communicated via these features very different messages over this landscape.



Historically, cairns along the Lolo Trail Corridor were built by U.S. Geologic Survey to delineate section corners or bench marks such as Indian Post Office, the Smoking Place or Chimney Butte. Forest Service personnel also constructed cairns to delineate trail routes or lookout locations. Private individuals who wished to commemorate the Lewis and Clark route during the 1930's also built cairns that define the expedition's camp locations and in some cases tried to replicate Nez Perce cairns, as noted in the journals, to commemorate those people. More recently, interested people have built new cairns around older ones creating alignments where none previously existed. However, within this historic framework of cairn builders and users are those reflective of Indian peoples' traditions, which denotes their long association within this traveled landscape.



In all, the landscape along the historic Lolo Trail Corridor is one defined by various cultures for reasons that define this landscape in different terms. Serving various users, these trails and cairn sites, though simple in outward appearance, reflect a human and use complexity difficult to perceive at the onset. Part of the goal of the Clearwater National Forest Heritage Resource Program is to document the historic and prehistoric users of this transportation corridor and to suggest ways to interpret these sites that more accurately reflect the multitude of users who viewed this landscape in very different cultural terms.

Robbin Johnston, Wendell Davis and Hal D. Carr



Interpretive Sign Dedication held at Clearwater Supervisor's Office



From l to r: Tribal elder Horace Axtell, Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Sam Penney, Clearwater Forest Supervisor Jim Caswell, and Nez Perce National Historical Park Superintendent Doug Eury. Photo by Kathy Thompson.

On Friday, September 18 a special dedication ceremony was held at the Supervisor's Office in Orofino, Idaho to dedicate two informational panels and one interpretive panel. Fifty people gathered to share in the festivities. The Nez Perce Tribe, the National Park Service, and the Clearwater National Forest came together to honor the efforts of this partnership formed in producing these signs.

Two panels provide maps and information on places to stop and things to see as visitors travel across the Clearwater National Forest. Susan Sawyer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provided photographs for use in one of the informational panels and attended the ceremony. Many employees helped with this effort from providing text to reviewing drafts to locating photographs to sign installation. This was truly a team effort by the Forest. The Forest was proud to announce the sign will also appear in braille, opening the door for enjoyment by more visitors.

The third panel tells the story of the Nimiipu's (Nez Perce) peoples encounter with the Lewis and Clark expedition nearly two hundred years ago in their own words. Jim Caswell, Clearwater Forest Supervisor; Sam Penney, Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe; and Arthur Taylor, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, spoke on the significance of the sign. Incorporating Nez Perce words into the interpretive sign allows for a greater understanding of the Nimiipu's rich cultural heritage. This is the first time a joint effort has been made to tell the Nez Perce story on a sign interpreting information for visitors to the Clearwater National Forest.

Horace Axtell, Nez Perce Tribal spiritual leader, provided a blessing of the sign by singing a traditional song and offering a prayer in his own language. Horace also honored the three individuals in the partnership through a smudging ceremony. A bundle of cedar was burned and the smoke was used to engulf Jim Caswell, Sam Penney, and Doug Eury, superintendent of the Nez Perce National Historical Park Service. Each of them received a bundle of cedar as a token of appreciation and honor. Doug Eury's staff provided photographs and graphics for use in the sign along with input on reviewing numerous drafts.

Jim presented Sam Penney with a certificate of Appreciation Award and a framed photograph of the Nimiipu panel. Sam officiated in the traditional ribbon cutting, which concluded the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Linda Fee, coordinator of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial for the Clearwater National Forest, presented the Forest's proposed strategy for the upcoming event. Jim briefed the audience on the Forest's preparations for the Bicentennial, addressing questions from the audience. Refreshments were enjoyed by all after the presentation.

Sandi McFarland
Clearwater National Forest





News from the Lolo National Forest

More Interpretive Signs Are Going Up Along U.S. Highway 12

As you travel down Highway 12 three more interpretive signs should be in place by spring. The Lolo National Forest and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho have been working on the interpretive signs between Lolo, Montana and the Idaho state line for the past several years. The new signs will include a portal sign near Guy's Steak House in Lolo. This is a general sign about the Lolo Trail with points of interest in the states of Montana and Idaho along the trail.

The other two signs will replace existing signs at two milepost locations along Highway 12. The sign "Pioneering Naturalists" will focus on Lewis & Clark and "The Nez Perce Sikum" will feature the Appaloosa horse within the Nez Perce culture. The signs feature text written by Allen Slickpoo, Arthur Taylor and Rudy Shebala. Kermit Edmonds a well-known Missoula area historian also contributed to the writing and research of these signs.

Cheryl A. Vanderburg
Lolo National Forest

Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Project

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe and the Lolo National Forest are the recipients of a \$20,000 grant from the **Forest Service Chief's Grants Program-Forest Service Natural Resources Agenda**. The Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Project is an effort by all three partners to accurately locate and map the original trail from Howard Creek, Montana to Lolo Pass near the Idaho stateline. In addition to grant dollars the project is being funded by contributions from both tribes and other federal contributions.

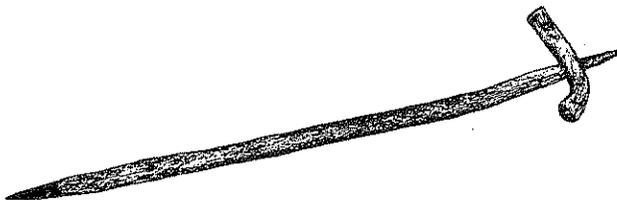
Personnel from both tribes and the Forest Service will utilize GPS mapping and conduct an archaeological survey. Trail enhancement by clearing brush and deadfall from the trail

and constructing a light trail tread using hand tools will also be done.

Participants will also enjoy a trail ride provided by the Young Horseman Program of the Nez Perce Tribe. In addition, elders from both tribes will be invited to present interpretive talks which will be part of the Missoula Ranger District Summer Interpretive Program.

Both tribes have a long standing commitment to natural resource management and together with the Forest Service view this project as an opportunity to bring together people who will maintain a piece of history for use by the public and for the members of the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana.

Cheryl A. Vanderburg
Lolo National Forest





National Park Service

Born Under a Star

Starr Jacob Maxwell was born near Asotin, Washington on May 10, 1870. His family history says that he was named Star because his mother was so taken by the beautiful star-filled sky on the night of his birth. His Scottish-American father, James William Maxwell, was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and his mother, Susan (Captain John) Hayes, was a Nez Perce from the Lapwai, Idaho area.

Starr attended the Chemawa Indian Boarding School at Chemawa, Oregon finishing there at the age of 18. Later he attended Fort Lapwai Industrial School and worked as a baker from 1889-1891.

Starr displayed an early interest in legal and social issues. He was involved in the Debate Team and the Literary Society and helped write constitutions for these organizations. Several years later he collaborated with other Nez Perce on a letter to Congress listing the many complaints of corruption against the school superintendent and requested his removal.

In 1891 Starr enlisted in the Indian Troop of the 4th U.S. Cavalry in Walla Walla, Washington. He attained the rank of sergeant and was discharged in 1893. After military service Starr returned to Lapwai to work on his allotment and also as a baker at the Lapwai Boarding School.

Starr married Edna Jackson, from Montana. They had 3 children, Laura, who died in 1909, Martin, and William. Edna suffered from tuberculosis and died in 1911 at the Lapwai Sanitarium. In 1912 Starr married Alice Beal. They had 3 children Daniel, Irmona, and Ruth. Two other children died as infants.

Starr grew up and worked as an adult during times of tremendous change for the Nez Perce people. These included: The campaign of 1877, pitting the Nez Perce against the U.S. Army; the General Allotment Act of 1887 which opened up the Reservation for homesteading by non-Indians; the introduction of Indian Boarding Schools that separated families; and the tremendous change from a hunting/gathering culture to an agrarian culture.

Acting as an interpreter for the Nez Perce people, Starr helped bridge the gap created not only from a difference in languages but also customs and traditions. No matter the setting or whether interpreting in Nez Perce or any number of other Plateau languages he provided an invaluable service for disenfranchised people caught in the machinery of change.

Serving as a Presbyterian and later a Methodist minister proved to be yet another avenue Starr Jacob Maxwell pursued as an advocate for his people. He was instrumental in starting the first Methodist Church in Lapwai. He was inclusive in his spiritual beliefs. He attended traditional Medicine Dances and drew from Indian traditions the newest medicines available and other "helps" including information on astrology.

Starr had many interests and abilities and put them to a variety of uses through out his life. He worked as a notary public for Nez Perce County, an attorney, judge, minister, banker, interpreter, a father and husband. He was well thought of and respected by all leaving a legacy of accomplishments that are still recalled by elders today.

Alyce Cadiz
Nez Perce National Historical Park





National Park Service

Nez Perce National Historical Park Hires New Superintendent

Replacing Frank Walker, Douglas E. Eury, Ph.D., came on board last August for the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP). Doug has lived in the Southwest since the mid-sixties and ten years ago, as Superintendent, developed the *El Malpais National Monument*. Although from North Carolina, Doug and his wife, Lyn, have enjoyed coming to the Northwest.

Implementing the General Management Plan is a priority and a goal of Mr. Eury. His past experience will be a big help in accomplishing some of these tasks. Another goal is
Diane Mallickan

to get an understanding of the interagency and tribal relations. His past work has been with the Acoma and Laguna Pueblo, Zuni, and Navajo peoples.

A priority at the present is a feasibility study for a visitor center/contact station at the Bear Paw Battlefield, the last official site of the Nimiipu Trail. He's encouraged by the interagency interest in the Nimiipu National Historic Trail and looks forward to building on common interests.

Presentation On Famous 1855 Treaty

Dr. Dennis Colson, law professor from the University of Idaho, presented a slide show and lecture on November 6 & 7, 1998, on the well documented Treaty of 1855 between the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla tribes and the U.S. government. Focusing on the history, content, and continued relevance, Colson brought the treaties alive and all those involved. His use of the actual minutes kept at each treaty council was an extraordinary window on the past.

Dr. Colson is the author of several books on Idaho's constitution in addition to numerous articles and presentations dealing specifically with Indian law. His newest book, *Nez Perce Treaties*, will be forthcoming.

He has lectured extensively on the history of Federal-Tribal relations, Indian law in the 90's, the Idaho Constitution, and the Nez Perce Treaties. He has been a professor of law at the University of Idaho, College of Law since 1978. A consultant and author, he has received numerous honors including the Idaho Humanities Council 1196 Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities.

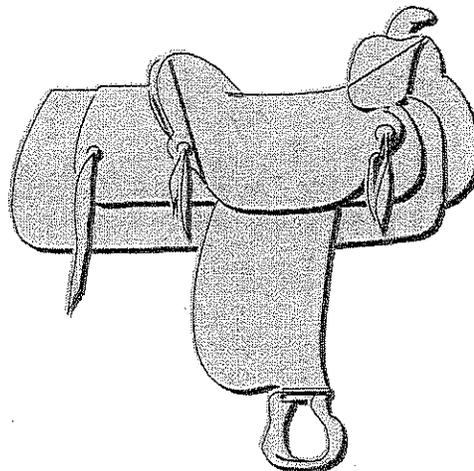
These presentations were hosted by the Nez Perce National Historical Park, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, and the Northwest Interpretive Association. All of the presentations were free and open to the public.

Diane Mallickan

"American Cowboys" Video Shown at Nez Perce National Historical Park Headquarters

"American Cowboys" was shown Saturday, January 16 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, January 17 at 2 p.m. at Spalding Park. "American Cowboys" is an important story about the dawning of the rodeo era and the closing of the West. From the pages arose two great cowboys; Jackson Sundown, a Nez Perce Indian, and George Fletcher, a black man. These men competed for the world saddle bronc championship at the Pendleton Round-Up. In the early 1900's Sundown and Fletcher challenged and broke the color barriers in the West.

Jackson Sundown was the first Indian to win a World Title at the Pendleton Round-Up. Jackson Sundown survived the 1877 Nez Perce retreat with the five non-treaty bands. Sundown escaped into Canada where he found exile with the Sioux Chief Sitting Bull and his tribe. Sundown later returned to the United States and settled in Montana in search of his family and tribe. Sundown settled in Cuddeback, Idaho, on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation.



Jackson was a legendary horseman. He overcame the obstacles of war, reservations, age and racism to become a world champion. In 1916, at the age of 53, Jackson Sundown became the first Indian ever to win the World Saddle Bronc Championship at the Pendleton Round-Up. Sundown was inducted into the Pendleton Hall of Fame in 1972. In 1976, Sundown was the first and only Indian inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Jackson Sundown bridged the Indians from the old culture and life-style of the 19th century into the modern technology of the 20th century.

"American Cowboys" was produced by Wildbill Production in association with Oregon Public Broadcasting. Partial funding was provided by Native American Public Telecommunications and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It is narrated by Academy Award Winner William Hurt.





National Park Service

Oregon/Washington Unit

Greetings from the Oregon/Washington Unit of the Nez Perce National Historical Park. We are well into winter here in the Wallowas and residents are still picking up the pieces from windstorms which cut power to the upper valley through Thanksgiving evening. All Articles by Tim Nitz

New Staff Member

We are pleased to announce that Cindi Reyes joins our staff as a Volunteer In the Parks (VIP). Cindi is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and worked in the tribe's archives and records program before moving to Joseph, Oregon, where she is enrolled at Eastern Oregon University.

As a VIP, Cindi will be organizing and maintaining the unit's records, maintaining the library reference collection, and assisting with mailings and information requests.

Old Chief Joseph Cemetery

The report, *Making Things Right: The Work of the Umatilla Indian Crew of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Old Chief Joseph Cemetery, Wallowa Lake, Oregon, 1937-1942*, was completed by Tom Hampson and Associates in mid-October. Drawing upon sources such as federal records in Seattle, the McWhorter collection at Washington State University, interviews with surviving CCC enrollees, and local media coverage, the report details the structures and landscaping of the Old Chief Joseph Cemetery and places the CCC activities into context of the overall history of the cemetery.

A fencing contract has been let to enclose the newly acquired National Park Service (NPS) buffer zone immediately adjacent to the cemetery. The NPS will manage the two parcels collectively through agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal beneficial owners, the Nez Perce Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Infrared visitor counters were purchased and will be installed at the cemetery this coming spring in order to get accurate counts of visitation to the cemetery.

Tick Hill

President Dave Smyth notes that work continues on Phase Two of the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center's (WBNPTIC) Tick Hill project. The Meyer Foundation recently awarded the WBNPTIC \$110,000 in order to finish construction of the dance arbor, shower house, vault toilets, road and other infrastructure this coming spring. WBNPTIC is also working with the Metropolitan Group of Portland, Oregon, in preparation for the

large upcoming capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of the visitor center called for in Phase Three of the WBNPTIC's Master Plan. The National Park Service and WBNPTIC hope to begin preparation of an Interpretive Plan for the site this winter. The Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center can be reached at their new offices in Wallowa, Oregon at (541)886-3101.





National Park Service

Nez Perce Art in the Wallowa

Committee Chairman Rob Lamb reports that the 1998 Nez Perce Art in the Wallowa was a resounding success. Dinner tickets were once again sold out and over \$17,000 Nez Perce and associated Columbia Plateau artists' works were sold. The 1999 showing will take place on September 25. Proceeds go toward development of the Tick Hill site of the Nez Perce National Historical Park sponsored by the WBNPTIC.

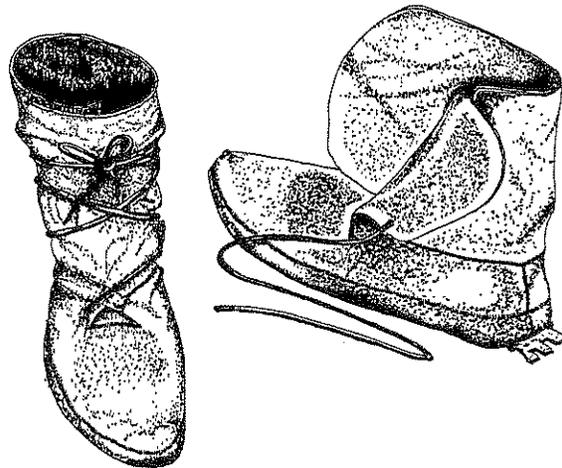
C'upn'itpelumn tawiknwes

Planning for the Nez Perce Cultural Center in Nespelem continues this winter as members of the Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce on the Colville Reservation begin meeting again under the direction of Rodney Cawston of the Tribe's Archives and

Records Program. Last winter the center's name, *C'upn'itpelumn tawiknwes*, statement of purpose, mission statement, and a list of weighted functions were developed

USFS/NPS Traveling Exhibit

Drawing upon the popularity of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Traveling display, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP) have started development of traveling displays that focus on the Nez Perce association to the Wallowa County of NE Oregon while also providing an overview of the NPNHT and NPNHP. Two display panels were purchased last year with NPS and USFS funds. Funding provided by Northwest Interpretive Association will allow for the development of materials to go on the panels. When complete, these displays will provide for a variety of setups tailored to specific audiences and age groups.





BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM provides a grant for NPNHT auto-tour brochure...

The Idaho Falls Bureau Land Management (BLM) Office has been working with the Forest Service, Idaho State Parks And Recreation, the Island Park Historical Society and the West Yellowstone Historical Society on a Nez Perce Trail auto tour route brochure. This new trail guide would cover the area between Leadore, Idaho and West Yellowstone, Montana (see page 16). BLM personnel have reviewed and edited portions of the guide.

A Challenge Cost Share proposal for \$5000 was submitted in November. The money would be used to print the new trail guide. The proposal has been approved by the Idaho State Office. The Idaho Falls Field Office will prepare an assistance agreement so the money can be transferred to the Island Park and West Yellowstone Historical Societies.

In October, the BLM hosted an Eagle Scout project. One scout wanted to clean up some of the weeds and trash around the Sam Glass grave site and learn more about Sam Glass and the Nez Perce War. The BLM supplied information and maps related to the trail and the Sam Glass grave.

Dick Hill
BLM Idaho Falls Office

Lewistown BLM plans and accomplishes work along the NPNHT...

Clark Whitehead, Lewistown District Office, provided the following BLM progress report during the East Side NPNHT Coordination meeting in Billings:

- "The Lewis & Clark Backcountry By-way is now signed and contains interpretive information on the NPNHT.
- "Interpretive signs at Cow Island were vandalized.
- "NPNHT markers are now in place along the county road.
- "The BLM produced a history digest that included information on the Nez Perce raid at Cow Island. A floater's guide for the Missouri River also contains info on the NPNHT. The BLM plans to install NPNHT interpretive signs at the Wood Hawk Bottom Recreation Area.
- "The Missouri River Wild & Scenic segment has seen heavy use this year (900+ users).
- "The Cow Creek Areas of Critical Environmental Concern contains info on the NPNHT.
- "The BLM identified Challenge-Cost Share projects that included the NPNHT, but so far this hasn't worked out. Projects are now on hold pending funding.
- "There is a proposal for a backcountry biway from Stafford Ferry to Cleveland and Bear Paw that would clearly follow the route of the NPNHT.



News from the...

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation has set **June 18-20, 1999** as the date for the next meeting and symposium. Although a specific site has not yet been chosen, the meeting and events will take place in the Wallowa and Joseph, Oregon area. Please note this on your calendar and watch for updates by mail or on the NPNHT Foundation website.

The 1998 Foundation meeting and encampment was held at Lost Trail Hot Springs and Big Hole National Battlefield, August 6-9, 1998. We had campfire talks next to our tipi at the old Lost Trail camp area. Past Foundation President Steve Russell led a hike on the old Lost Trail Pass and Stan Hoggatt gave a very interesting and well documented presentation on the Clark's Fork route in Wyoming. New officers were elected, with **Nick Hudson as President, Charlie Moses; Vice-President, Brian McCormack-Secretary, Paul Wapato-Treasurer, and Carla HighEagle-Executive Committee Member.** A list of the full Board of Directors is available.

On Sunday, August 9 we all went to the battle commemoration and Veteran Pipe Ceremony at Big Hole. Several Foundation Board members attended a National Trails Partnership meeting in November. They also visited historical Nez Perce sites in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma and Kansas) at Tonkawa, Quawpaw, and Ft. Leavenworth. Slide photos were taken and a presentation is being prepared for the June meeting. During the Trails meeting a vision statement was drafted by representatives from 8 of the National Trails: *"National Trails will be forever preserved by the American People to commemorate the stories of those who passed over them and profoundly shaped the United States. These trails will provide the opportunity to experience a deep sense of the past on the lands and waters where the events occurred."*

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation mission statement bears repeating;
"The Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation exists to promote public awareness and appreciation of the historic route of 1877 while maintaining respect for, and preserving, its cultural resources and values. Our Foundation does this by working individually or jointly with governmental agencies and others. The Foundation also encourages research, publication, and interpretation of the contributions to American history made by the Nez Perce peoples, especially in association with their 1877 journey, and the events of time and place before, during, and after the military campaign, which are historically important to our nation."

There are many things going on along the Trail...too numerous to mention here, but the Foundation newsletter will keep you informed. Those interested in joining the Foundation should send us their name, address, and membership dues now. When you join, or renew your membership, we will send you our October '98 newsletter, as well as future newsletters and bulletins, and a Trail decal (while supplies last). **Dues for one full year are: \$30 Individual or \$50 Family.** You can mail dues or other correspondence to the Foundation at

**NPNHTF
 P.O. Box 20197, Missoula, MT 59801**

For more information contact Nick Hudson at (435) 655-3210 or leave a message at (760) 776-7608, or Brian McCormack at (208) 798-3249 (phone and fax).

Online visit one of the following websites..

<http://www.nezperce.com> or <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~sfr/npnhtf/npnhtf.html>



News from the...

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce Exile in Indian Territory, 1877-1885

After surrendering to Col. Miles and General Howard on October 6, 1877, Chief Joseph and the remaining survivors of the five bands of Nez Perce were sent to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and then to Indian Territory. In late September 1998, the NPNHT Foundation Officers and one of the Board of Directors visited these historic places. The group included Nick Hudson, President; Charlie Moses, Vice-President; Brian McCormack, Secretary; and Paul Wapato, Treasurer. Also traveling with the group was Ruth Wapato, who serves on the Foundation Board of Directors.

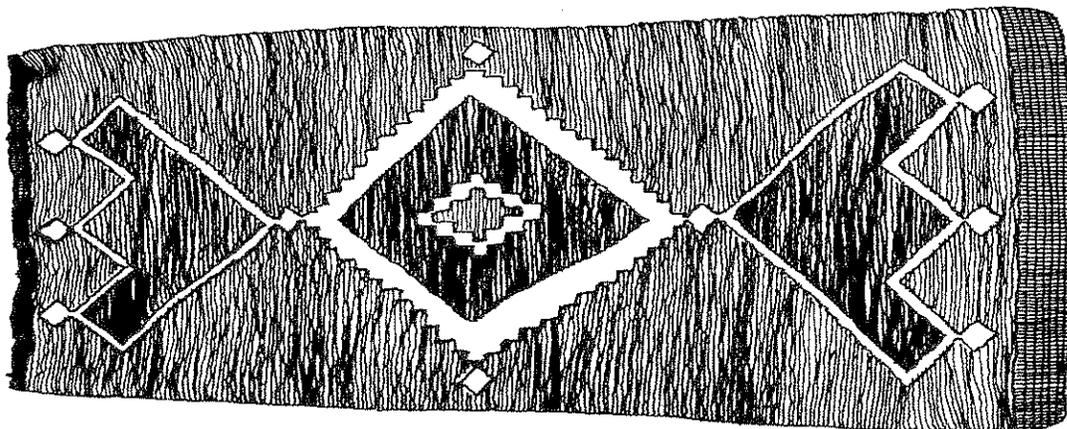
After Ft. Leavenworth, the group visited an area along the Missouri River where the Nez Perce were forced to camp. A worse place could not have been found. The low land was swampy and 22 people died of malaria and probably pneumonia.

The Nez Perce were then turned over to the Indian Bureau and transferred to Indian Territory (later to become Oklahoma). They were first sent to the Quapaw Reservation, which they shared with the Quapaw and Modoc Indians. The only reference to these tribes the Foundation group found was the Modoc cemetery. The climate and the flat brush-land did not suit the Nez Perce, who were used to the mountains, rivers, and four distinct seasons of their homeland. The Nez Perce called their new home "the hot place, Eeikish Pah."

In 1879, the Nez Perce were moved to northcentral Oklahoma, where a 90,000 acre reserve was established for them. The reservation headquarters were located at the confluence of two rivers. The Foundation group the Nez Perce cemetery near the Tonkawa tribal headquarters. The cemetery is well kept, surrounded by a chain-link fence, and neatly mowed. In the center is a monument telling of the Nez Perce.

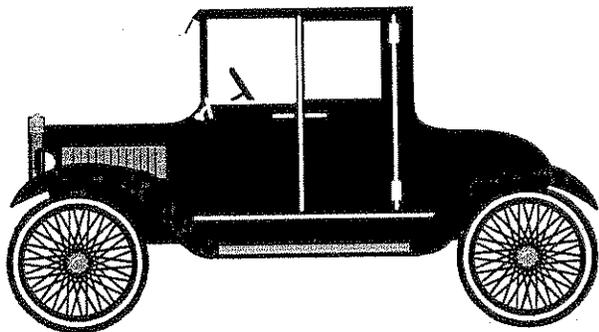
In June of 1885, the Nez Perce were finally allowed to return to the Northwest. At Wallula on the Snake River, the group was divided. 118 Nez Perce chose to go to the reservation in Lapwai, Idaho, while 149 chose to go with Chief Joseph, who was given no choice and sent to the Colville reservation in Nespelem, Washington.

Charlie Moses
Chief Joseph Band



Elsewhere Along the Trail

New NPNHT Auto-tour Brochure is in the Works...



The West Yellowstone and Island Park Historical Societies have teamed up to produce a NPNHT auto-tour brochure that will interpret a segment of the route from Leadore, Idaho to West Yellowstone, Montana. Auto-route brochures have previously been produced and published by the Bitterroot National Forest in 1995 and the Beaverhead National Forest in 1997. This latest effort marks the first time a grassroots citizen effort has been applied to the production an auto-tour brochure for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

The Leadore to West Yellowstone brochure covers an extensive segment of the NPNHT auto-route; more than 100 miles as it winds its way south through the Lemhi Valley, past the Camas Meadows skirmish site, Dubois, Island Park, and Henry's Lake, Idaho before ending at the

west entrance of Yellowstone National Park. In addition to tracing the movement and actions the Nez Perce and their military pursuers, this brochure will tell the story of the Shoshone-Bannock Indians, across whose territorial homeland much of the trail crosses. Kathleen and Nancy Stratford recently met with Shoshone-Bannock to discuss their ongoing efforts

Kathleen Durfee and B.J. Hultz are spearheading this project. Kathleen is a ranger at Harriman State Park, a unit of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, which is located just west of Island Park, Idaho. B.J. is a member of the West Yellowstone Historical Society and has worked closely over the past year with Nancy Stratford of the Island Park Historical Society to gather historical information, photos, and maps. In addition, numerous volunteers are working hard to turn plans and ideas into reality, including Tom Hiestand, Pete McGarry, and Paul Shea.

The West Yellowstone and Island Park groups have obtained grants from the Idaho State Historical Society and the Idaho Falls Office of the Bureau of Land Management. State and federal agencies involved in this project include the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

For more information on the Leadore-to-West Yellowstone auto-tour brochure please contact Kathleen Durfee at (208) 558-7368, or B.J. Hultz at (406) 646-7640.



Travellers Rest: Lewis and Clark slept here...

If Dan Hall's research proves successful a piece of history will be rewritten. For many years the location of a campsite used by the Lewis & Clark Expedition, called Travelers' Rest, was thought to be somewhere along the banks of Lolo Creek near its confluence with the Bitterroot River just south of the small town of Lolo, Montana. Now, that assumption is being challenged. Hall, an historical archeologist from Missoula, is investigating a site that research and physical evidence may prove is the actual camp used by the Corp of Discovery in September of 1805 and again in June of 1806. While the exact location of the camp has been speculative, its existence has not.

In late September, 1805, the Lewis & Clark expedition, led by a Shoshone Indian guide named Old Toby, camped near Lolo Creek. The group spent several days preparing for what would prove an arduous trek across the rugged Bitterroot Mountains. In a journal entry dated September 9, Meriwether Lewis described their arrival at the camp this way...

"we continued our rout down the W. side of the river [Bitterroot] about 5 miles further and encamped on a large creek which falls in on the West. as our guide inform[ed] me that we should leave the river at this place and the weather appearing settled and fair I determined to halt the next day and rest our horses and take some scestial Observations. we call this Creek Travellers rest."

Old Toby knew this spot well, having been here many times throughout his life. It was a place used by generations of Salish Indians, who lived in the Bitterroot Valley. Other tribes camped here as well, including the Nez Perce, as they passed through the area on their way to and from the buffalo grounds to the east.

Evidence of a campsite first turned up over a year ago when Dan was asked by the Travelers' Rest Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to interpret aerial photographs of an area located south of Lolo Creek and west of Hwy 93. The photographs showed circular subsurface features that appeared to be teepee rings.

This past October, Dan led a group of volunteers on an archeological survey of the site, which is spread across 60 acres of private land. While sweeping the area with metal detectors the group turned up some interesting artifacts, including a pewter button dating to between 1780 to 1810. A few weeks later a magnetometer search pinpointed other anomalies that may prove to be fire hearths.

It is the presence of fire hearths that could provide the most critical evidence of a Lewis & Clark camp. According to Dan, the arrangement of the fire hearths would indicate whether the camp was organized according to military standards, with sleeping areas segregated by rank; captains, sergeants, privates, and finally, Indian guides. Fire hearths spaced in a uniform pattern would strongly suggest that a military-style camp existed here.

Unfortunately, a portion of this historically unique site has already been lost to development. A private landowner recently built a trailer court atop an area containing some of the teepee rings, destroying the archaeological integrity of the site. Fortunately, most of Travelers Rest is on located on land owned by Pat and Ernie Deshamps, who vow to protect it. They hope to see this place become an historic site and have agreed to leave their 15 acres of land untouched until a plan for preservation and interpretation can be formulated.

Further work at Travelers Rest is on hold until spring, when subsurface testing will be conducted. Perhaps then the physical evidence needed to prove that Lewis & Clark slept here almost two hundred years ago will come to light. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail is located just a few miles from Travelers Rest and parallels portions of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail. Travelers Rest is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Dan Gard
Lolo National Forest



Nez Perce Trail Bibliography Update Ready for Publication...

Work on an annotated bibliography of material related to the Nez Perce Indians, the U.S. military, and the war of 1877 will be ready for publication by late January. First compiled and published by Dan Gard in 1995, the current draft bibliography contains thirty-three entries. Once completed the updated edition will boast more than one-hundred references.

In addition, this revised work will contain an annotated video bibliography, a non-annotated list of historical references, and a historical collections guide. The collections guide offers a list of museums and libraries that have holdings relevant to the Nez Perce Indians, the U.S. military, and the conflict of 1877. Both the annotated bibliography and historical collections guide were previously published under separate covers.

Sandi McFarland, Clearwater National Forest, contributed a large number of annotated and non-annotated entries, many taken from her 1992 Master's thesis. Most are related to Nez Perce history and culture, while others relate directly to events surrounding the 1877 flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce from Oregon to Montana.

Copies of the updated bibliography and historical collections guide will be mailed to forest Supervisor's Offices throughout Region One, Nez Perce National Historical Park units, Bureau of Land Management offices, and tribal offices. To obtain a copy please contact the Lolo National Forest at (406) 329-1005.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail
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