



NEWS

From the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

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War and Flight of 1877 Canyon Creek to Bear Paw Focus of Presentation by Historian

MISSOULA, MT – On the afternoon of September 22, 2012, at 2 p.m., visitors are encouraged to join the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and Bear Paw Battlefield for a presentation by Jim Magera. Mr. Magera's program will focus on the events of the war and flight of 1877 from the Canyon Creek battle to the final battle of the war at Bear Paw. The presentation will be held at the St. Jude's Parish Center, at 440 7th Avenue in Havre, MT.

This presentation will include information that Magera has collected through nearly 50 years of research. It will include little known stories about Long shooting gun, Day Time Smoker, Reed and Bowles Trading Post, Bear Paw Gold, Cow Island Battle, Cave of the Paints, and the trail to the Bear Paw Battlefield.

Jim Magera holds a Bachelor of Science from Northern Montana College. Magera has more than 45 years of teaching experience and is a three time teacher of the year in the Havre School District and was a semifinalist for Montana Teacher of the Year in 1994. He has developed a number of unique courses, taught local north central Montana history, basic and advanced courses in Indian Culture and social sciences. He also assisted with the development of the Montana Office of Public Instruction "Indian Education for All" lesson plans.

Jim is a longtime volunteer in the Montana Hi-Line communities of Chinook and Havre. He has been a seasonal National Park Service Ranger at Bear Paw Battlefield since 1994. He has also served on the Park's Education Committee. He chaired the Havre/Hill County Historical Preservation Association, is a board member for the Friends of Bear Paw Battlefield, board member for Havre Beneath the Streets and has edited several publications for state and local centennials.

Following the presentation, Magera will be available to answer questions.

In 1986 Congress enacted legislation that established the Nez Perce National Historic Trail which follows the 1,170 mile route of the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce.

2012 marks the 135th year since the 1877 war and flight. The staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail in conjunction with a number of partners are hosting a website providing information about this and other events happening during the next several months to commemorate the events of 1877. We encourage people to learn more about the culture of the Nez Perce people and the significant historic events associated with the National Historic Trail.

