



# NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

## *Progress Report*



Fall 2012

## Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) staff launched the 135th anniversary website for the commemoration of this unique National treasure, the NPNHT, in May of this year. We had a series of six presentations at sites along the NPNHT. Each speaker brought a unique perspective and portrayal of the history and culture surrounding the events of 1877. Take a closer look at the diversity of these gifted presenters on page 4.



Sandi McFarland, along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon.

It is amazing to reflect on how people have learned about the NPNHT. They have discovered us through our website, other websites, articles in newspapers, emails, Google and other search engines, friends, and Social Media Networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, and YouTube.

This year we will start tracking these impressions and encourage folks to become a fan of the NPNHT by following us on Twitter, engage in blogs, visualize us on Flickr, our partners Facebook sites, and YouTube.

One of the benefits of working on the NPNHT is the opportunity to meet many visitors whether on the trail, at a commemoration, or along the auto tour route. We have shared more brochures, post cards, posters, and other publications than ever before! We certainly have a very important job to reach our visitors.

Opportunities to serve the growing interest in volunteerism, allowing citizens to interact with others, and make meaningful contributions is what our Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Program is about. Take time to read about the exciting CCS Projects we had this past year and consider applying for this program. Please see more information about the CCS program on page 5.

We will continue to make new friends as fall and winter progresses. We will experience these seasonal trail users engaging in activities from hiking, hunting OHV use, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Working together will be the key to ensure the NPNHT will remain safe and secure for future generations, this will be manifested by maintaining a spirit of cooperation. This is an exciting time!"

Kind regards,

*Sandi McFarland*, Administrator NPNHT

*"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."* Theodore Roosevelt



## Comprehensive Management Plan Reversion Progress Report

A Contractor, TQNEPA, is working on the content analysis of the public comments from our recent 19 public workshops. They will use this information and any additional information provided by our federal partners, along with laws, regulations, and policies to develop a proposed action for the environmental document by late spring of 2013.

The Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and including the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) Revision work has been drafted and reviewed by the federal partners. The goal is to have this Interagency MOU signed this winter.

A tribal NPNHT MOU template has been drafted for review by the tribal governments this winter. This MOU will be used to establish a proactive working relationship between the various tribes and the NPNHT staff and programs including the CMP revision work. This MOU is modeled after the NPNHT MOU with the Nez Perce Tribe that expired earlier this year.

Julie Molzahn  
CMP Revision Coordinator

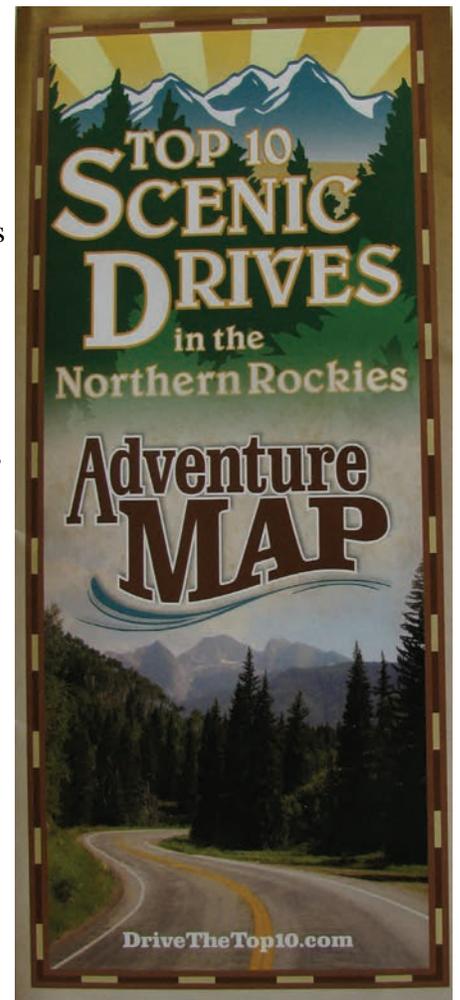
### Additional Copies of Drive Top Ten Scenic and Historic Drives Adventure Map Reprinted

This past summer the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) a partner, and one of the featured National Historic Trails of the Top Ten Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies, provided \$3,000 in Challenge Cost Share funds helping to print a total of 30,000 Top Ten Scenic Drives Adventure maps for public distribution.

The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies initiative began in 2005 and includes information about four intersecting National Historic Trails and 19 National Parks, Monuments, and Recreation Areas. It includes more than 100 key partners, including state, provincial, regional, local and tribal organizations, as well as state and federal agencies, and private businesses and organizations.

For more information about The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies visit [www.drivethetop10.com](http://www.drivethetop10.com).

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



# Virtual Visit to the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Now Complete



The staffs of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) are pleased to announce the completion of the Trail's Google mapping project late this past summer.

For visitors unable to physically visit the Nez Perce National Historic Trail this option allows them to travel the entire length of the NPNHT using Google Maps and Google Earth.

Completion of the virtual tour marks the first significant use of the full range of Google web tools to showcase, promote, educate, and enhance the public's awareness and use of one of our nation's historic trails.

The tour can be accessed from the NPTF website or the NPNHT website.

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation first applied for a NPNHT Challenge Cost Share grant for this project in 2010. During the past two years members of the Foundation and staff from the NPNHT have worked with Ron Hall, an Eastern Washington University geographic information system (GIS) instructor and a Google certified kml developer for interactive web map content, to complete this project. The NPTF was also able to take advantage of the Google Outreach program for non-profit organizations.

“The Foundation is proud to be a vital part of this effort in helping to share the story of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail with audiences around the world,” said Jim Evans, Executive Director, NPTF.

“The uses for this tool are endless and we are extremely excited to be able to share these applications with visitors and educators,” said Sandi McFarland, Administrator NPNHT. “We are already exploring the possibility of educational curriculum using this software to further engage youth.”

The tour utilizes existing NPNHT information into new technologies and gives them an interactive nature. Using these features visitors will now be able to access the full set of information provided in the NPNHT auto tour brochures using Google earth from their computer, smart phone, or tablet.

For those seeking a more in-depth experience they can access the same information via Google Earth.

“Those visitors wishing to get a 3D experience can “fly” along the Trail and get a firsthand feeling for the rugged terrain that the Nez Perce and military traversed in 1877,” said Ron Hall.

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.



## Events Mark 135th Commemoration of War and Flight



2012 marked the 135th year since the 1877 war and flight. The staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) in conjunction with a number of partners hosted a website providing information about more than 35 events that happened during the past several months to commemorate the events of 1877 and encourage people to learn more about the culture of the Nez Perce people and the significant historic events associated with

the NPNHT.

People were encouraged to participate in a guided hike at Big Hole Battlefield, participate in Pow Wows, annual memorials, and to learn about traditional art and culture.

A variety of presentations were held at locations along the entire 1,170 mile NPNHT. The staff of the NPNHT hosted a [speaker's series](#) with presentations in Billings, Havre, and Missoula, MT, and Lapwai, ID. Approximately 250 people attended these presentations.

The presentations including living history programs by Bob Brown as Captain Charles Rawn, Jim Zimmerman as Lt. C.E.S. Wood, Blue Coats Under the Big Sky by Tate Jones of the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History, a focus on the NPNHT from Canyon Creek to Bear Paw by Jim Magera, a presentation on Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce by Stan Hoggatt and "Nez Perce Appaloosas and Nez Perce Family History," by Rosa Yearout and Angel Sobotta who shared pearls of history hidden away from the modern world that we cannot find in text books, history books, or military journals their family stories and memoirs were, shared from their hearts.

We hope that many of you were able to attend these very informative and educational presentations and events.



Jim Zimmerman portrays Lt. C.E.S Wood during a presentation to 80 people in Missoula this summer.



L-R Rosa Yearout, Mike McFarland, and Angel Sobotta share Nez Perce history to a group in Lapwai, ID.



Jon Yearout with the horse discusses the strength and durability of the cross bred Nez Perce Horse to a group in Lapwai, ID.



## Public Encouraged to Submit Challenge Cost Share Applications For Nez Perce National Historic Trail Projects

The public is encouraged to propose projects designed to improve and enhance the visitor's experience along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The submitted projects will be considered for the 2013 project year funding. Project funding was made available through funds designated to administer the NPNHT. Completed applications must be post marked **by November 30, 2012**.

The purpose of the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) is to increase participation by qualified partners in the preservation and improvement of federally managed natural, cultural, and recreational resources; in all authorized programs and activities; and on national trails. The Forest Service and partners should work together on CCSP projects with mutually beneficial and shared outcomes.

The CCSP is a matching fund program. An equal amount of eligible and matching share (50% preferred) of cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources is necessary. Currently, the maximum CCSP award is \$30,000. Projects selected should generally be able to be completed within one year.

A list of 2012 NPNHT Challenge Cost share recipients can be found in the Trail's [summer 2012 Progress Report](#).

Project application forms and instructions for completing the application are available at the Nez Perce National Historic Trail website at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/partners](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/partners) or from the Administrator for the NPNHT, located at the Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office in Orofino, ID.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their forms electronically. E-mail applications to Sandi McFarland at [npnht@fs.fed.us](mailto:npnht@fs.fed.us). Proposals may also be mailed to: Sandi McFarland NPNHT Administrator, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID, 83544.

For additional information applicants may also contact Sandi McFarland, Administrator NPNHT at (208) 476-8334.

### Nez Perce National Historic Trail Passport Stamp Now Available

For visitors traveling along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) our staff recently created a Passport Stamp for the NPNHT. During the past year these stamps have been distributed to several visitor contact points along the NPNHT.

- ◆ Bear Paw Battlefield
- ◆ Big Hole National Battlefield – NPS
- ◆ Fort Benton, MT – BLM Upper Missouri Breaks Interp. Center
- ◆ Joseph, OR – Wallowa Mountain Visitor Center, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- ◆ Lolo Pass Visitor Center, – Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
- ◆ Orofino, ID – Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
- ◆ Spalding, ID – Nez Perce National Historical Park

If you would like a stamp for your office please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or [rpm Peterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:rpm Peterson@fs.fed.us).



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image

## Nez Perce National Historic Trail Releases Updated Auto Tour Brochures

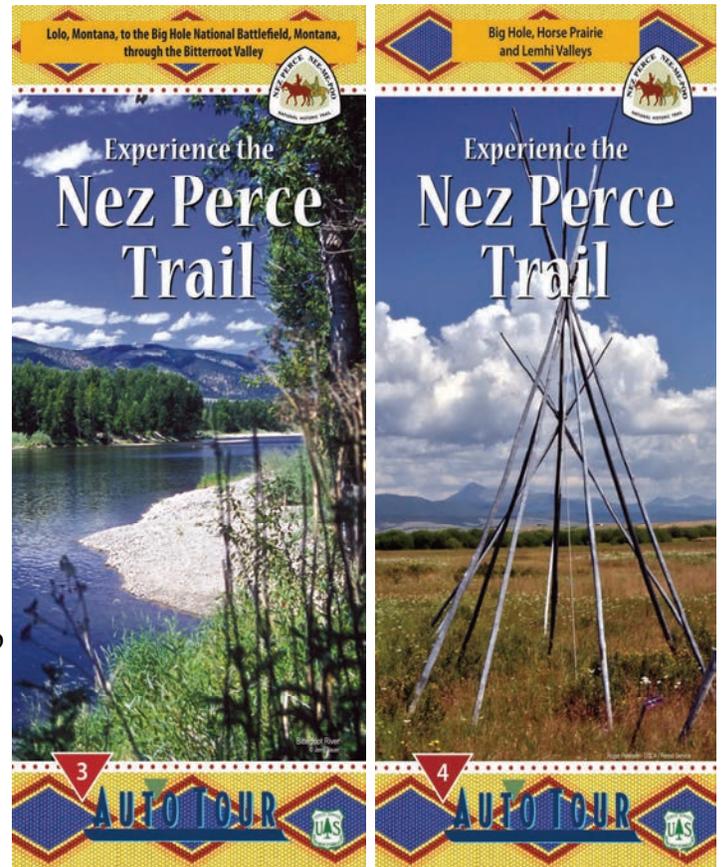
The staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is proud to announce the release of the revised and updated versions of the Experience the NPNHT Auto Tour brochures for three different sections.

Auto Tour 3 Lolo, Montana to the Big Hole National Battlefield, Montana, through the Bitterroot Valley, Auto Tour 4 Big Hole, Horse Prairie and Lemhi Valleys, and Auto Tour 5 Leadore and Island Park, Idaho, to Yellowstone National Park, Montana.

The Auto Tour brochures are designed to help visitors experience the NPNHT. These brochures have been in development since last winter. We have received great feedback and would like to thank all those who commented and helped to make these accurate, informative, and user friendly brochures which will help guide visitors along the NPNHT for years to come. Also thanks to the staff at Recreation Solutions for their assistance in creating these outstanding products to help visitors experience the NPNHT story.

These brochures, along with the entire family of NPNHT Auto Tour brochures, are available for download from the [NPNHT website](http://NPNHT website).

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



## 2013 Nez Perce National Historic Trail Desk Planners Coming Soon

The annual desk planner has been sent to the printer and delivery is anticipated in early December. Trail staff will begin distribution to partners and visitor centers along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) as soon as they arrive.

This year's version of the popular planner features seasons along the NPNHT and information about a variety of plants used by the Nez Perce (Niimípuu).

Special thanks to Jason Blake of Recreation Solutions who helped with layout and design, Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner, and Wilfred "Scotty" Scott from the Nez Perce Tribe who provided information on the annual commemorations.



## Nez Perce Tribe Hosts Natural Resources Career Fair

On December 5, 2012, the Nez Perce Tribe's Environmental Restoration, Waste Management (ERWM) Program, Environmental Education Group, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, invites people to attend the 3rd Annual Natural Resources Career Fair. The fair will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (MDT) at the Pi-nee-waus Community Center in Lapwai, ID.

With the Nez Perce Tribe and the region being rich in natural resources, it is the hope and goal to introduce and get more students interested in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. The fair is specifically set up to introduce students to the many different STEM fields.

At the same time, an opportunity will be given to agencies, institutions, and programs to share, recruit, and provide available resources and opportunities for the students. Available resources may include internships, scholarships, and/or employment, and there will also be drawings and door prizes for the students.

Through this event the Nez Perce Tribe hopes to further student learning experiences and increase their exposure to the various occupations in natural resources.

If you are interested or plan on attending, please contact Solo Greene at 208-621-3749 or [solog@nezperce.org](mailto:solog@nezperce.org).



The poster features a green background with a white box at the top containing the text "3rd Annual". Below this, the title "Natural Resources Career Fair" is written in a large, white, serif font. A decorative horizontal line with a black and white checkered pattern separates the title from the event details. The date "Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012" is displayed in a green, serif font, followed by the time "9:00 AM - 2:30 PM" in a smaller green font. The location "Pi Nee Waus Community Center Lapwai" is listed in a green, serif font. To the right of the text is a photograph of a mountain landscape with evergreen trees under a blue sky with white clouds. Below the main text is another photograph of a river flowing through a forested valley. At the bottom right, there is a green box with white text providing contact information for Solo Greene, ERWM Education Specialist, including a phone number and an email address.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**  
**Natural Resources Career Fair**

**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**9:00 AM - 2:30 PM**  
**Pi Nee Waus Community Center**  
**Lapwai**

Local colleges and school districts on or near the Nez Perce Reservation are invited to checkout Natural Resource career opportunities as well as possible scholarships, internships, and employment.

For more information, contact ERWM Education Specialist Solo Greene at 208.621.3749 or email at [solog@nezperce.org](mailto:solog@nezperce.org)

### Be Safe in Your Travels

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

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

## Tamkaliks Celebration in the Wallowa Valley

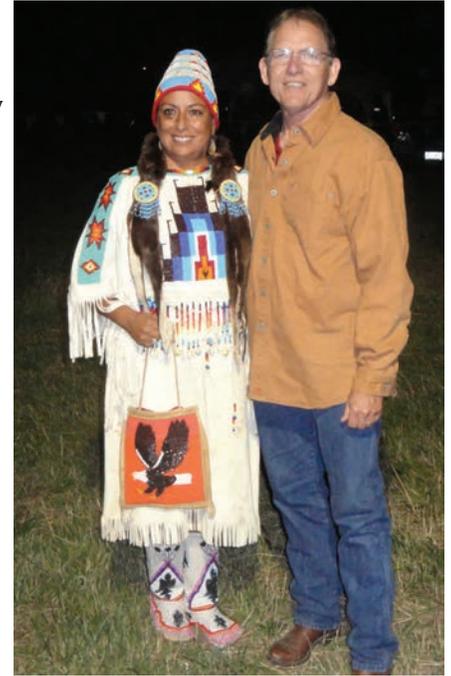
This past summer Sandi McFarland, Nez Perce National Historic Trail Administrator participated in the 22nd Annual Tamkaliks celebration during July 20-22, 2012 in Wallowa, OR. The event was held at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center (WBNPTIC) on Whisky Creek Road, along the Wallowa River.

Wallowa is named for a Nez Perce word denoting a tripod used to support fishing nets. The celebration commemorates the past, present and future presence of the Nez Perce in the Wallowas.

The celebration was once again located on the 320 acres of land near the outskirts of Wallowa, beneath rimrock bluffs, owned and managed by the WBNPTIC. This nonprofit coalition, established in 1995, maintains an interpretive center and office in Wallowa.

The Wallowa Band Nez Perce returned to this beautiful valley in small groups and for special occasions after they were forcibly exiled in 1877. Fascination with the Nez Perce and the war and flight of 1877 is widespread among those who visit Wallowa Country.

Visit [www.wallowanezperce.org](http://www.wallowanezperce.org) or call the office in Wallowa at 541-886-3101 for more information about Tamkaliks and the WBNPTIC organization.



L-R Sandi McFarland and Jim Zimmerman in Wallowa, OR.



Sandi McFarland, US Forest Service Image

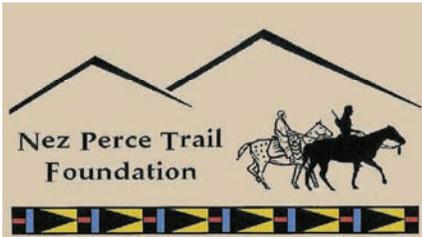
L-R Jim Zimmerman presents a painting he did to Joe McCormack in Wallowa, OR.

## UPCOMING Events:



- November—Native American Heritage Month
- November 11, 2012—Veteran's Day, Fees waived at many National Public Land sites
- November 23, 2012—Native American Heritage Day
- December 1, 2012 Annual Bead Bazaar Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, ID, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST
- January—March, 2013—Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](http://Travelers Rest State Park), see the Pak website for details.
- February, 2013 — Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC—more info at [www.americanhiking.org/hth/](http://www.americanhiking.org/hth/)
- April 14-17, 2013—21st American Trails International Trails Symposium, Scottsdale, AZ





# News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Nez Perce Trail Foundation 21st Membership and Board of Director Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, in West Yellowstone, MT, on October 19, 2012.

The main topic of this year's Annual Meeting was the election of officers and Board of Directors members. Full minutes will be published soon on the Foundation's web site [www.nezperctrail.net](http://www.nezperctrail.net).

New slate of officers was elected and they are:

- ◆ President – Jim Zimmerman
- ◆ 1st Vice President - Dick Seymour
- ◆ 2nd Vice President – Paul C. Wapato
- ◆ Secretary – Bernadine Ellenwood
- ◆ Treasurer - Ryan Allen

Board of Directors

### One-Year Term

Leah Conner – Daune Heglie, Robert Vetter, one open position

### Two-Year Term

Lynn Fleming – Paul Wapato, Bob Swick, Ruth Wapato

### Three-Year Term

Charlie Moses Jr., three open positions

Past President - Myrna Tovey

We are seeking new Board of Directors members and invite you to join if you have an interest in the work of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

Representing the Forest Service was Liz Davy, District Ranger, Ashton-Island Park .

Connie Jacobs, Director Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center, BLM presented an overview of the instructional material "*When Cultures Collide*" that was used for the Yellowstone Teacher Project (*see photo on right*). She then outlined a joint cost share project that would center on the Missouri Breaks Nez Perce Trail site. The project would include teachers and students on a weeklong adventure to the site. A planning group was formed to draft the proposed project.

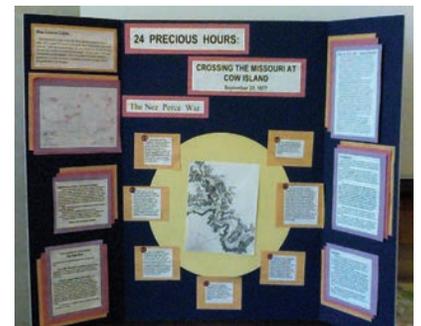


Photo Courtesy of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

A highlight of the educational portion of the program was the presentation of the final two auto brochures which were recently transferred to the Virtual Tour program on our web site [www.nezperctrail.net](http://www.nezperctrail.net).



Past NPTF project at Nespelem, WA, rest stop.

On the evening of October 19, newly elected President Jim Zimmerman gave a presentation portraying Lt. C.E.S. Wood to Foundation members and members of the West Yellowstone, MT, and Island Park, ID, communities. More than 60 people attended the program during which Mr. Zimmerman told the compelling story of C.E.S Wood who served as the Aid De Camp to General Oliver Otis Howard during the 1877 war and flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce, 135 years ago. Wood was also an advocate for social justice, attorney, and poet while living the remainder of his life in Portland, OR and Los Gatos, CA. See more information and a photo on page 4 of this report.

Jim Evans

Executive Director  
Nez Perce Trail Foundation



## 15th Annual PACE Camp 2012

A milestone was reached this past July as the Nez Perce Tribe's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management (ERWM) Program successfully completed their 15th Annual Preparing for Academic Excellence (PACE) Math and Science Camp. The two week camp, which is held at Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, ended on Friday, July 27, 2012, at the Spaulding Nez Perce National Historical Park with an awards assembly.

This year's PACE Camp instructors were Charles Snyder and Donna Drayder, who are both instructors at Washington State University (WSU). They returned from last year's camp for their second year as camp instructors. Returning camp counselors include Josh Hayne of Lewis Clark State College (LCSC), and Ronnie Johnson and Destiny Woodward of Lapwai High School (LHS). New high school counselors include Silas Moses (LHS), Fianna Hayes of Shadle Park High School in Spokane, Ashley Paul (Orofino High School), and the twins Rachel and Jackie Davis of Lewiston High School. College counselors also included Gia Paul and Alex Pinkham both at LCSC. ERWM Education Specialist, Solo Greene was on medical this year so the camp was coordinated by ERWM Communication Specialist Antonio Smith.

The first week of PACE (July 16-20, 2012), started with the camp pre-test and then a visit to the University of Washington Campus. Students toured a few of the on-campus museums and then finished the day with science and physics team challenges.

The second morning the students reviewed math concepts and the "Scientific Method." In the afternoon, they went out to Spaulding Historical Park for an Ecology scavenger hunt and a cultural engineering presentation by Kevin Peters of the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP) on the Nez Perce atlatl.

Wednesday's session included a number of math lessons this was followed by a tour and presentation by Aaron Penney at the NPT fish hatchery at Cherry Lane.

Math and more water science started Thursday morning followed by Forestry Science presentations from the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) Forestry Program and Wildland Fire crews. After the presentations, the students hunted in teams all over the park on an ecology scavenger hunt.

The first week of camp finished with an all-day Ecological field trip up Hells Gate Canyon on jet boats. A number of the week's presentations were incorporated into the trip as students were exposed to the geology and biology of the land and river system. Noted Nez Perce historian and speaker, Allen Pinkham, was invited along to present on the history and cultural aspects of the area.

The second week of camp was just as busy and enjoyable. In addition to their regularly scheduled math and science curriculums, the students took field trips to the Palouse Discovery Science Center (PDSC), Lewis Clark State College Health Science facility, NPT Bio-Control Center in Lapwai, and the Nez Perce National Historical Park. They received presentations on "Carbon Dioxide," "Solar Connection," "Food Science," and the "Power of Wind" by NPT Air Quality, "Math of Sound" by William Bigman, "Sound of Light" by PDSC staff, "Statistics in Health" by NPT Students for Success Program, and "Invasive Plants" by the NPT Bio-Control staff. Deaun Lonebear of URS Corporation in Boise shared on job opportunities in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.

The camps primary purpose is to build up the student's math and science skills and better prepare them for high school. The camp is not all work and no play. Along with hanging out with friends, eating at college cafeterias, visiting universities and museums, swimming on beaches, one afternoon the students were able to hang out at the Asotin County Aquatic Center.

"This year's camp coordinator would like to thank all the sponsors, presenters, schools, and volunteers," Antonio Smith said "without your help and support, none of this would be possible. Thank You!"

*Information provided by Antonio Smith*



The Nez Perce National Historic Trail again provided t-shirts with the NPNHT logo on them for all PACE campers.



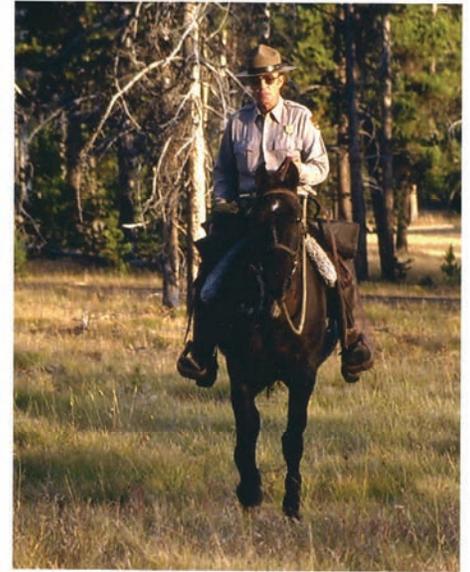
## Jerry Mernin Memorial

*“Do good, avoid evil; remember who you are and what you stand for; and watch out for the company you keep.”* Jerry Mernin

Last winter, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, National Park Service family and, community lost a good friend when retired ranger Gerald “Jerry” Mernin passed away from a massive brain hemorrhage.

A “Ranger’s Ranger” as one friend noted, Jerry developed his love and passion for protecting all that is wild at a very early age. Born to Emma and Gerald Mernin in Sacramento, CA, Jerry spent his formative years in Yosemite National Park, where his father was a district ranger. Raised on Park Service lore, Jerry had a deep understanding and a unique perspective of NPS operations that would serve him well during his long, distinguished NPS career.

The deep love, high admiration and respect he had for his father was a determining factor in Jerry’s decision to pursue his brilliant career with the NPS, rather than to continue working towards a law degree.



Jerry on horseback in the Park.

In 1952, Jerry began his NPS career as a seasonal fire lookout at Pelican Cone in Yellowstone National Park. Other summer employment included stints at Glacier and Yosemite National Parks. His first permanent position with the NPS was Bryce Canyon National Park. After a brief time at Grand Canyon National Park, he returned to Yellowstone in 1964. Turning down promotion after promotion, he would remain in his beloved Yellowstone for the next 32 years until his retirement in 1996.

Jerry’s commitment to Yellowstone didn’t end with retirement, however; he continued to volunteer and spend summers patrolling and protecting Yellowstone’s backcountry until his health would no longer permit it. Throughout the remainder of his life, he would continue to be a strong advocate for Yellowstone’s wilderness and preservation, sharing his thoughts and expertise with park management and others.

In recent years, and with strong encouragement from friends and family, Jerry began writing his memoirs. A born storyteller, his decades of experience in Yellowstone gave him a lot of material to work with in tales of adventures, many involving his much-beloved horses and mules and various other Yellowstone residents and visitors—both the four-footed and two-legged variety.

“A gentleman and a scholar,” Jerry exemplified both throughout his life. He leaves a legacy in several generations of younger park rangers inspired by his example.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Cindy; sister, Lynn Salley of Ashville, North Carolina; niece, Josephine.

A celebration of Jerry’s life was recently held, if you missed the memorial please share your comments at: <https://www.facebook.com/MerninsRendezvousMemorialService>

Donations in Jerry’s memory can be made to the Yellowstone Park Foundation at their website (click on the "More Information" link below) or by mail to 222 East Main Street, Suite 301, Bozeman, Montana 59715. Donations will be used to fund projects or programs that protect, preserve, and enhance Yellowstone National Park.

Reprinted from the National Park Service Digest



## Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Request

The NPNHT Staff of the Forest Service has been working with the Partnership for the National Trails System, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Park Service to complete a request to fund National Trails System acquisitions in the 2014 LWCF. These funding requests are completed two years prior to the federal budget allocation process which is why we are working on the 2014 request now. This request was made by the head of the federal land management agencies to the national trails partners and staff.

NPNHT was able to compete well in this process. In the final proposal submitted to the heads of the federal land management agencies only 16 national trails were able to be included and the NPNHT was one of these final trails. The following lands were requested for funding:

- Cow Island and Cow Creek, Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Montana BLM Office.
- Big Hole National Battlefield addition; an area where Nez Perce took women, children and wounded immediately after the initial battle started.
- Lolo Creek, Clearwater River, near Kamiah, ID, where the NPNHT is intact below Wieppe Prairie, Cottonwood Bureau of Land Management Office, ID.
- Additions to Old Joseph Gravesite area and Minam parcels, Oregon, Nez Perce National Historic Park.

At this time the Cow Island and Cow Creek parcels along with the Big Hole Battlefield additions are in the 2014 LWCF. The remaining parcels depend on final Congressional funding for the total request. We anticipate a similar request will occur again next spring for 2015 LWCF funding.

If you have questions on this topic please contact [Julie Molzahn](#), CMP Revision Coordinator, NPNHT at 406-826-4352.



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

Summer has drawn to a close at Big Hole National Battlefield and it was a good summer season. More people attended Park ranger led programs than had done so in previous years. Visitors are very pleased with the new exhibits, and the majority of comments have been positive. Most people are spending a lot more time viewing the exhibits, taking time to read and learn about the events surrounding the war and what happened at Big Hole.

The visitor comment station located in the vista room of the visitor center has been very popular with many thoughtful comments left for us to share with those who will come to Big Hole National Battlefield in the future.

We saw an increase of about 3,000 visitors to the Big Hole NB visitor center in 2012. Park staff attributes this to the fact that we have moved from the temporary facility where we were housed for the past two years back into the renovated main visitor center.

The annual commemoration event was very well attended by tribal members coming from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Wilfred "Scotty" Scott said he didn't think he had ever seen that many Nez Perce at a commemoration before.

We also have been busy correcting small errors we have found in the exhibits and plan for the new temporary exhibits in our visitor center foyer.

On Sunday, November 4, 2012 the Battlefield will begin its winter schedule. The visitor center will be open and free to the public seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We are looking forward to next summer and seeing what it brings to the Park.

Steve Black, Superintendent  
Big Hole National Battlefield



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image

On August 11, 2012 more than 150 people attended the annual memorial.





## News From the National Park Service:

### Bear Paw Battlefield Commemoration 2012

On the clear, crisp morning of October 6, 2012, Nez Perce families gathered at the edge of Bear Paw Battlefield to honor their ancestors lost during the six day battle and siege. Starting with the Drum Song, 154 people attended the Pipe Ceremony and many came to the center to speak of lost relatives or reflect upon the circumstances of the battle. Horace Axtell, spiritual leader of the Nez Perce, and his nephew, Wilford “Scotty” Scott, conducted the ceremony.

Friends from Ft. Belknap and Rocky Boy reservations attended plus supporters from the local communities. Lunch was provided for all by the Jim and Crystal Fox family of Ft. Belknap featuring smoked salmon, buffalo tongue, and Juneberry soup.

The good weather allowed families to walk the battlefield until late afternoon. This was the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war and flight of 1877. For more information about the battlefield call 406-357-3130 or go to [www.nps.gov/biho](http://www.nps.gov/biho).

Also this summer Battlefield staff helped replace Nez Perce National Historic Trail markers at Cow Creek (*see photo at right*).

Stephanie Martin  
Park Ranger, Bear Paw Battlefield



Stephanie Martin, National Park Service Images

## News From Nez Perce National Historical Park



Ranger Kevin Peterson attended the Get Outdoors event at Fort Vancouver, WA, in June. He displayed Nez Perce cultural items and shared Nez Perce culture with more than 400 visitors.

Family Days in the Park were held on July 14 and August 8. On both days visitors had the chance to take part in many different activities including creating ledger art, investigating archeological techniques, traditional Nez Perce games, and much more. All of the young Family Days participants earned their Junior Ranger badges.



National Park Service Image

During the past year, 435 young folks became Junior Rangers at the Spalding Visitor Center.

The annual Beadwork Bazaar will be held at the Spalding Visitor Center on December 1, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST. More than 30 vendors will be on hand displaying and selling crafts and artwork. It's a great way to find the perfect Christmas present.

Terry O'Halloran  
Chief of Interpretation  
Nez Perce National Historical Park

Family Days at Nez Perce  
National Historic Park





# News From the Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Billings Field Office

In September Tim Finger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, from the Billings, MT, Field Office of the BLM lead the effort to increase

interpretation of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) near Laurel, MT.

The NPNHT signs went up on National Public Lands Day, Saturday September 29, 2012 at the [Sundance Lodge Recreation Area](#). The recreation area is located near the confluence of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the Yellowstone River just southeast of Laurel (*see photo below*).

Fifty volunteers erected the signs along the river trail on temporary wooden jackleg stands. The final site will be in a meadow, in a semi-circle with a picnic table in the middle and with cottonwoods surrounding them and the river behind them.



**The 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce**

The Nez Perce flight from their homeland is one of the most fascinating and sorrowful events in Western U.S. history. Nearly 750 Nez Perce, mostly women, children, and elderly, fled from the lush Willaflowe Valley in Oregon, their homeland, with 2,000 horses and all their possessions. Pursued by 2,000 of the U.S. Army's best soldiers, several citizen volunteers, and ten different Indian tribes, the group of Nez Perce who had refused to sign their lands away in a treaty sought to escape war by leaving Oregon and Idaho.

When their plan to seek refuge with Crow allies on the Great Plains failed, flight to Canada seemed their only hope. Their route through four states, dictated by topography and skillful strategy, covered more than 1,170 miles.

Although outnumbered and outgunned, the non-treaty Nez Perce were victorious in numerous battles and skirmishes.

Then, trapped in Montana's Bear Paw Mountains just short of the safety of Canada, the starving and freezing Nez Perce surrendered on October 5, 1877.

This route, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, was used in its entirety only once; however, component trails and roads that made up the route supported generations of use prior to and after the 1877 flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce.

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail stretches from Willaflowe Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana. Congress designated it a National Historic Trail in 1986.

The Trail route crosses a variety of ownerships. Numerous federal, state, and local agencies, communities, and private landowners now work closely with the Nez Perce to preserve and interpret the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

**Here, where you stand, the Trail crosses the Yellowstone River and continues north.**

For Further Information, Please Contact:  
Bureau Of Land Management, Billings Field Office  
5001 Southwest Drive  
Billings, Montana 59102  
(406) 876-0613  
<http://www.blm.gov/npnht>

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

On September 13, 1877, the Canyon Creek battle was one of the last battles of the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce believed their refuge would be with the Crow Indians, their former hunting companions from the plains to the east. Leaving Yellowstone National Park, the Nez Perce sent scouts ahead to search for the Crow. The scouts returned with bad news. The Crow would not offer refuge and some would even take sides against the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce then turned toward Canada where there was possible sanctuary with Chief Sitting Bull's people who found safety there following the Great Sioux War of 1876.

At Canyon Creek, located approximately 11 miles north of Sundance Lodge Recreation Area, the army caught up with the Nez Perce. The troops charged, trying to cut off the escaping Nez Perce from the safety of the trees in Canyon Creek. The army tried several avenues of attack, and were for the most part stopped by Nez Perce warriors keeping the soldiers at bay while the elderly, women, and children fled. The Nez Perce abandoned about 400 of their slowest horses, which were immediately rounded up by the army's Crow scouts. The next morning, the Nez Perce were discovered by the Crow scouts north of Canyon Creek. After a running fight over several miles, the Crow quit the chase to go after an additional 500 horses that were not able to keep up with the fleeing Nez Perce.

The Nez Perce reported only one warrior dead and three wounded at the Canyon Creek battle. The Nez Perce were exhausted after traveling nearly 3,000 miles in three months, including the last two days and nights on their feet. The loss of nearly half their horses also slowed down the Nez Perce on their way north to Canada and set the stage for the Bear Paw battle in late September 1877.

Above: Interpretive signs placed at the Sundance Lodge Recreation Area near Laurel, MT.



# News From the National Forests:



## Clearwater National Forest, Lolo Pass Visitor Center

This summer and fall have turned out to be one of the smokiest in recent history. The Lolo Pass Visitor Center was often shrouded in smoke from the Powell Complex Fires burning on the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho. The Powell Complex began from dry lightning strikes in mid-July, and burned until snow fell in the area in mid-October. As of the first of October, the complex was over 62,000 acres, mostly burning in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Thankfully it appears that weather patterns have changed in snow is again in the forecast.

One highlight of our summer season was a visit by the 5th grade class from Lolo Elementary in Lolo, MT. The class came up to Lolo Pass to learn about the Lewis and Clark Corp of Discovery and their travels along the historic trails in the Lolo Pass area. Forest Service interpreter, Francis Weigand, dressed the part of Sergeant John Ordway, and described life as a member of the Corp of Discovery through the eyes of the Sergeant. Students learned about the American Flag the Corp carried with them, their weapons, their uniforms, and how the men passed the time during their long journey. *(photo above)*



Sue Finley, US Forest Service Image

The Lolo Pass staff had a familiar face return this summer. Sue Finley, our beloved Texas volunteer, re-joined us for August and September. She provided visitors with first-hand knowledge of the local roads, trails, and motorcycle routes, as well as charmed them with her Texas drawl.

Buffie Cerutti, Manager  
Lolo Pass Visitor Center

## Bitterroot National Forest



During the summer of 2012, the Bitterroot National Forest trail crew cleared 3.1 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The trail crew maintains the section of the trail from Forest Road #10001 to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Road #1260, on the Sula Ranger District.

The crew concentrated on clearing the trail corridor and reestablishing the tread on the lower two miles of the trail in early May. There was a lot of re-growth of small pines in the burned area of the trail. Now, the trail is obvious and more enjoyable. In mid-July, the trail crew finished clearing this portion of the NPNHT.

The pictures at right that show the trail before and after the recent work.

Debra D. Gale  
Wilderness, Trails, Outfitter and Guides,  
Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Manager  
Bitterroot National Forest  
West Fork Ranger District

Before



After



Deb Gale, US Forest Service Images



## New Faces Along the Trail:

### U.S. Forest Service announces new regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region

Earlier this year U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced the selection of agency veteran Daniel Jiron as the new regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region.

The Rocky Mountain Region manages resources and activities across more than 22 million acres of forest and grassland in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming including 11 National Forests and Grassland units.

“Dan’s background, savvy and passion for our forests and grasslands suit him well for this important post,” Tidwell said. “Dan will hit the ground running to deal with the myriad opportunities and challenges facing the Rocky Mountain area, including bark beetle infestation, our accelerated restoration efforts, and a soon-to-be finalized national planning rule.”

Jiron replaces Rick Cables, who retired last year and subsequently took a position as Director for the Division of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Jiron has served as the Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region since August of 2010, which encompasses 18 National Forests, and approximately 20 percent of California’s land base at 20 million acres. The Pacific Southwest Region also includes conservation programs in Hawaii, and the United States affiliated Islands in the Pacific.

Prior to being Deputy Regional Forester, he served as Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico and also served as a Trustee for the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Previously, Jiron has served as the National Press Officer and Agency Spokesman in Washington, D.C., Communications Director for the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service and as a District Ranger on the Salt Lake Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah and the South Park Ranger District, Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands in Colorado.

Early in his career Jiron served as an aide to United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell from Colorado. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Colorado State University in 1986 and a Master’s Degree from Regis University – Denver in 1997.



### Yellowstone National Park Has New Park Archeologist

Staffan Peterson was recently named the new archeologist at Yellowstone National Park. Peterson has a broad anthropological background that includes historical and prehistoric North American archeology, geophysical investigations, and Geographic Information Systems. He received a PhD. in Anthropology from Indiana University.

Prior to his new position he managed the Cultural Resources Office for the Indiana Department of Transportation, overseeing compliance matters for hundreds of federal and state transportation projects. Peterson has over fifteen years experience in the archaeology of the eastern United States and Great Plains, having supervised the excavation of dozens of Native American sites ranging in date from the Archaic to the late prehistoric periods, as well as Euroamerican sites dating from the early 19th century to the late 20th century.

Peterson started his new position on June 4, 2012.



## New Faces Along the Trail:

### Hudson Assumes Role as Dillon District Ranger



Cornelia “Cornie” Hudson assumed her new position as the new Ranger for the Dillon Ranger District about a year ago.

Hudson graduated from Utah State University with a BS in Forestry and began her Forest Service career on the Vernal Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest in Utah in 1981.

She has since worked for the City of Salt Lake City, UT, Recreation Department, as well as the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Custer National Forest and most recently the St. Joe Ranger District of the Idaho-Panhandle National Forests where she was a project planner and NEPA coordinator. Her experience varies from tree inventory, to timber sale administration, public affairs, fire, recreation, and minerals management.

Hudson replaces Tom Osen who transferred to the Clearwater-Nez Perce National Forest.

### Mark Smith Looking Forward to Service on Bitterroot Trail Staff

Mark Smith was recently name as the new trails specialist on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Before coming to the Bitterroot Mark served on Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. During his time at the Lolo National Forest Mark worked in several resource programs including: trails, recreation, and outfitter/guide administration. He first came to Montana in 1992 to work on a trail construction crew for the Madison Ranger District on the Beaverhead National Forest. After that season, he knew that he wanted a career with the Forest Service and to make the outdoors his “office.” Mark continued working seasonally in trails; on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, in the Bob Marshall Wilderness for seven seasons, and at the Ninemile Ranger District, for another eight seasons.



“I am very excited to be here on the Bitterroot,” said Smith. “The trail system on the Forest has 1500 miles to explore, maintain, and make improvements on and I am looking forward to getting to know such places as the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Blodgett Canyon, Big Creek, and the Warm Springs trails. Any request to get out and work on the trails is always welcome. I am very enthusiastic and passionate about keeping trails open, and am happy to see so many people enjoying the trails on their National Forest.”

Mark and his wife Molly and 6 month old baby girl Stella also enjoy spending time outdoors. He hope to see you all, out on the trail.



# How to Contact Us:

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Nez Perce National Historic Trail  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino ID 83544



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*“US Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”*

# Autumn Scenes Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Images by Roger Peterson, US Forest Service



Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT



Along the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway in northwestern Wyoming.



Near Stevensville, MT

