



NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Progress Report

Summer 2010



Administrator's Corner

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) has much to offer when it comes to history, culture, and unique landscapes. I was recently reminded of this fact while attending the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) on July 30- August 6, 2010, in Lewiston, ID. Their theme was "On the Trail in Nez Perce Country," a very important theme as the NPNHT and Lewis and Clark Trail share many of the same trail segments or are closely parallel or cross in different locations. They also share the Lolo National Historic Landmark which is a site on the National Register of Historic Places.

As we listened to various presenters and visited sites along the Trail, it was as if we were once again walking in the steps of the Nimiipuu and Lewis and Clark. I was inspired by the beauty and significance of this intimate and sacred relationship which unifies, stabilizes, and humbles us. I appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the Annual Meeting as a vendor, staffing the NPNHT booth, and as a presenter on the field trips. I was pleased to be presented with a replication of the Jefferson Peace Medal, which was originally presented to chiefs along the trail by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I was humbled to receive this from John Fisher, a retired, award-winning high school teacher from Lewiston and the creator of the "hands on" historical trunks and the recent new book on the medicines of the expedition. John represents the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation. I would like to express a very warm and heartfelt thank you to the LCTHF for this recognition.

This event has helped rejuvenate me as we begin the process for revising the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the NPNHT. It has been rewarding to visit and learn more about the processes and program of work we will undertake as we identify tasks needed to begin the Trail CMP revision.

The CMP revision effort is being coordinated by a team of NPNHT and Forest Service staff in cooperation and close-working relationship with our sister agencies.

I would like to stop and take a moment during our busy schedules to thank all of the agency specialists and various staff who have helped to make the Trail what it is today. I look forward to working with Forest Service personnel, staff from partner federal agencies, tribal governments, state agencies, local governments, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, non-profit organizations, and Trail enthusiasts as we start on our newest journey, the revision of the Trail's CMP.

Through this effort we will cultivate enduring partnerships, engage communities and youth along the Trail, build capacity for volunteers to assist with the Trail and develop a program of citizen Trail stewards. We will also continue to work with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, other partners and inter-agency personnel in this important process.

I invite everyone to join with us and provide your ideas and comments as we work to include the Trail team, partners, neighbors, and the general public in assisting us in identifying challenges, needs, and opportunities along the Trail.

We will soon be releasing more information on the process to provide a chance to assist us in developing long range goals, opportunities and issues, which will help us to move this revision process forward before we begin the formal NEPA process. We will be holding a series of community workshops along the length of the Trail over the next year designed to engage all interested parties in the development of the revision process.

Sandi McFarland

Administrator NPNHT

New Nez Perce NHT Map For Sale

A new map of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail is now available for sale at locations across the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain regions. The map provides visitors with details on a number of locations along the 1,170 mile Trail, which was designated as a National Historic Trail by Congress in 1986.

This map, with an improved color scheme, replaces the last Nez Perce National Historic Trail map which was last revised in 1995. The map, which was produced on a “plastic paper,” sells for \$10 at Forest Service and National Park Service offices and online through [Discover Your Northwest](#), the [National Forest Store](#), and the [USGS Store](#).

An electronic version of the map is available on the [Trail’s website](#).

One side of the map provides visitors with an overview of the entire Trail, including information on modern day travel routes and sites to visit along the Trail.

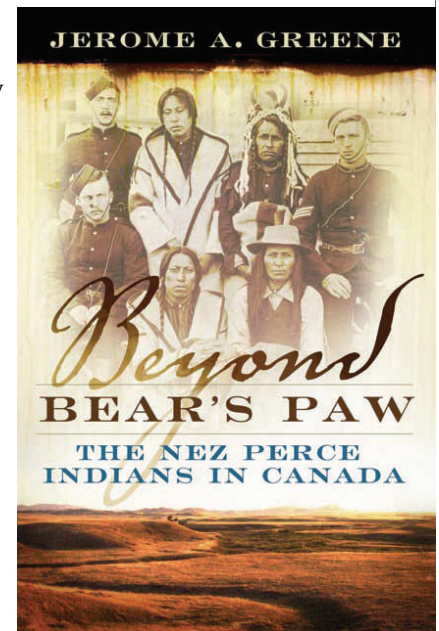
The reverse side of the map gives a glimpse back in time and shows how the region looked in 1877. This side, done in shaded relief, not only shows the route followed by the Nez Perce people during the Flight of 1877, but also shows the boundaries of land traditionally used by the Nez Perce and the subsequent changes brought about by the treaties of 1855 and 1863. This side of the map also shows the routes used by the US Army in its pursuit of the non-treaty Nez Perce during the summer of 1877.

For more information visit the Trail’s website: www.fs.fed.us/npnht/



New Book, *Beyond Bear's Paw: The Nez Perce Indians in Canada* Now Available

In the fall of 1877, Nez Perce (Nimiipuu) Indians were desperately fleeing U.S. Army troops. After a 1,700-mile journey across Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, the Nez Perce headed for the Canadian border, hoping to find refuge in the land of the White Mother, Queen Victoria. But the army caught up with them at the Bear's Paw Mountains in northern Montana, and following a devastating battle, Chief Joseph and most of his people surrendered.



The wrenching tale of Chief Joseph and his followers is now legendary, but *Bear's Paw* is not the entire story. In fact, nearly three hundred Nez Perce escaped the U.S. Army and fled into Canada. *Beyond Bear's Paw* is the first book to explore the fate of these “nontreaty” Indians. Drawing on hitherto unexplored Canadian and U.S. sources, including reminiscences of Nez Perce participants, Jerome A. Greene presents an epic story of human endurance under duress.

Greene vividly describes the tortuous journey of the small band who managed to elude Colonel Nelson A. Miles's command. After the escapees crossed the “Medicine Line” into the British Possessions, they found only new trauma. Within a few years, most of them stole back to their homelands in Idaho Territory. Those who remained north of the line faced a difficult and uncertain future.

In recent years, Nimiipuu descendants from the United States and Canada have revisited their common past and sought reconciliation. *Beyond Bear's Paw* offers new perspectives on the Nez Percés' struggle for freedom, their hapless rejection, and their ultimate cultural renewal.

This book is authored by Jerome A. Greene, a retired Research Historian for the National Park Service. He is the author of numerous books, including *Stricken Field: The Little Bighorn since 1876*.

From the University of Oklahoma Press

Annual Commemoration Remembers Nez Perce People at Ft. Vancouver

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, members of the Nez Perce Tribe gathered at Ft. Vancouver in Vancouver, WA.

The Nez Perce Chief Red Heart Ceremony commemorates the date in 1878 when Chief Red Heart's band of the Nez Perce was released from captivity at the Vancouver Barracks in Washington Territory. The annual commemoration includes singing to honor Nez Perce ancestors, including a young child who died at Fort Vancouver, and recognition of veterans.

This annual Commemoration is open to all members of the public and is held annually in late April.



Joni Packard, US Forest Service Image



Joni Packard, US Forest Service Image

Packer Meadow Fire 85 Percent Contained

Missoula, MT - August 7, noon - The Packer Meadows Fire remains at 135 acres and 85 percent contained. Full containment of the main fire perimeter is expected on August 9. Some resources were released as this fire continues to cool with one Hotshot crew continuing mopping up around the edges and within the interior of the main fire as well as any remaining spot fires.



Sarah R. Doehring, US Forest Service Image

Packer Meadow Fire, July 27, 2010

Three closure orders remain in place to ensure public safety. The orders close to the public the following:

- Lee Creek Campground approximately two miles south of Lolo Hot Springs
- North Lost Park Road (#2194) approximately three miles northeast of Lolo Pass at its junction with road # 2195
- Lee Ridge Trail #295 at the beginning of the trail three miles south of Lolo Hot Springs to the Montana/Idaho border

For the latest information on this fire please visit:

www.incweb.org/incident/2040/ or call (406) 329-1024 .



Fire Destroys Wallowa Ranger District and Visitor Center

On July 11, the USDA building in Enterprise, OR, burned to the ground. All employees are safe and no one was injured. However, the loss of the building will disrupt the lives of the staff and community in the area, as well as the Forest employees across Region 6, for much time to come. Nearly 100 employees have a place to call their own and the public has lost a center of information, full of valuable records and historical artifacts.

“Our hearts go out to employees and to the community for this great loss -- please keep everyone in your thoughts,” said Mary Wagner, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester.

The large log building served as offices and a visitor center for the Forest Service for 20 years. It housed the Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center, the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area office, and the Eagle Cap and Wallowa Valley Ranger District headquarters. Other offices include the USDA Service Center, which includes the Enterprise Service Center for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Wallowa County Farm Service Agency.

The facility housed a number of exhibits related to the Nez Perce Trail.

“The Forest would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of support and sympathy,” said Judy Wing, Public Affairs Officer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The cause of the fire is currently unknown. A multi-agency team is investigating the fire.

The visitor center staff is currently working out of the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 80 employees of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Wallowa Valley RD, and Eagle Cap Ranger Districts will soon move into a more functional office site at the Joseph Elementary School. Last month, the Forest Service signed a six-month lease with the Joseph School District.

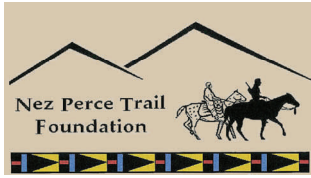
From the R6 Update - (Fire photo credit: George Marr, burned building photo credit Angelica Johnson)



UPCOMING 2010 Events:

- August 13, 14, 15 -- Chief Looking Glass Days & Powwow, Kamiah, ID
- August 28 -- Nez Perce Treaty 1855, Presentation, Great Falls, MT (see page 7)
- October 1-3 -- Nez Perce Trail Foundation Annual Meeting, Chinook, MT
- October 2 -- Bear's Paw Battle Memorial, Chinook, MT
- November 14-17-- National Trails Symposium: Chattanooga, TN





News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation:

The Winter Board of Director Meeting was held in Nespelem, WA at the CC Credit Union conference room. It was a conference call meeting.

The minutes of the meeting can be found on the web site <http://nezperctrail.net/i/NPTFminutesWinter%2010.pdf>

The highlight of the meeting was our visit to the new Rest Area at Nespelem. It was open on April 2, 2010. Our contribution was the two traditional signs of the Trail. Thanks to Smoker Marchand for his design of the rest stop and our sign placement. (Photos right)

The interpretive kiosk at the Birch Creek site, south of Leadore, ID, was dedicated on Saturday, June 26. More than 50 people from around the region attended the dedication. This project was a partnership between the Nez Perce Trail Foundation Lemhi Chapter (we took the lead in construction of the site), the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the Bureau of Land Management, the Sacajawea Byway, and the Salmon Valley Business and Innovation center. (photos below).

The Annual Membership and Educational Meeting will be held at the Bear Paw National Battle Field October 1-3, 2010 in Chinook, MT.

The Keynote Speaker for this year's annual meeting will be Jerome Greene, noted author of the *Nez Perce Summer 1877*, who will present his new book, *Beyond Bear's Paw: The Nez Perce Indians in Canada*. He will make his remarks and hold a book signing on Friday at the annual banquet. The community of Chinook and area will be our guests at the banquet.

On Saturday October, 2, the annual commemoration event will be held at the Bear Paw Battlefield site.

Jim Evans
Executive Director
Nez Perce Trail
Foundation



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image



News From the National Park Service:

Big Hole National Battlefield

The Park's first Coyote Camp was a great success. Over 720 children from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming attended the in-depth education program during the week of May 24. Nez Perce Tribal members, Pete Wilson and Josiah Pinkham, came to the park from Lapwai, ID, to help with this program. The feedback that the Park is getting from those who attended has been positive. The Park plans to continue this program and may expand it into the Fall to reach more youth. Sessions were held on various aspects of Nez Perce culture and what happened here in 1877.

The Park's 1968 visitor center closed for [major renovations](#) (see photo on page 6) on June 14. The temporary visitor center is located in the park housing area, and while some visitors have found it confusing to find, it seems to be working. These long-needed renovations will continue until early next year. When the building reopens visitors will not only find a new roof, but a new front entrance, new exhibits, new climate control, new lighting, and a host of other projects that will help carry the Park well into the 21st century. It has been an exciting time to work in the Park and see all the changes occur. We hope to hold a grand dedication in the late spring of 2011.

Our [Summer Speaker Series](#) began on July 3 and will continue every weekend through August 15.

Lodgepole Pines continue to be attacked by pine beetles. Last summer the Montana Conservation Corps, working with the Park, cut down over 200 trees from the siege area of the Park. This summer it looks like almost as many will have to be felled. The reason for falling the dead and dying trees is visitor safety. Infected trees outside the trail area are being left in place. As a result, when the sawyers are at work, the Siege and Howitzer trails will be closed for up to 10 days at a time.

The tipi poles in the camp area of the park are due to be replaced this summer. Working with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest the Park has cut down 500 lodgepole tipi poles in the Big Hole area. This July a Montana Conservation Corps Youth Expedition Crew will peel the bark from the trees, and, with the Park staff, will help raise the over fifty tipi frames in the Nez Perce encampment site. The current poles have been in place for over 5 years and are showing their age.

On Saturday, August 7, Tribal elders and others gathered in the Park to [commemorate](#) the 133rd anniversary of the Battle of the Big Hole.

Steve Black
Superintendent
Big Hole National Battlefield

Yellowstone National Park

To honor the Nez Perce people and to commemorate their journey through Yellowstone during the Nez Perce War of 1877, two wayside exhibit panels have been installed in a kiosk near Nez Perce Creek, between Madison Junction and Old Faithful. Artist Nakia Williamson-Cloud illustrated a likely scene from the 1877 journey through Yellowstone, and his beautifully rendered painting now provides the focal point on one of the panels. The photo above shows visitors reading and learning from one of these new panels. The number of people who visited Yellowstone National Park in the month of July came close to equaling the number of people who came during the first six months of the year combined. More than 957,000 visitors came through the park gates in July, 2010. That is the largest number of people ever to visit the park in any month, breaking last July's record numbers by nearly 60,000. It also marks the first time in the park's history that visitation for the first seven months of the year has topped the 2 million mark.



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image





News From the National Park Service:

Bear Paw Battlefield

Bear Paw Battlefield Volunteers Feature Nez Perce Trail

Montana Bear Paw Battlefield volunteers Jake Rasmussen of Chinook and Bill Hake of Turner (pictured L-R) are part of a team that have been riding the rails along the highline of Montana to tell the story of the Nez Perce War of 1877 to passengers from Havre, MT, to Minot, ND.



National Park Service Image

Eighteen local Trails and Rails volunteers take turns four days a week on the Amtrak Empire Builder to present interpretive and historical information to travelers along the route. The program runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Stephanie Martin
Park Ranger
Bear Paw Battlefield



National Park Service Image

Visitor Center renovations are in progress at Big Hole National Battlefield



News From the National Forests:

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

The Interpretive center will host a presentation on Saturday, August 28, 2010, as part of the annual Native American history and culture series. The presentation entitled "**The Nez Perce Treaty of 1855**" will be made by Josiah Pinkham of the Nez Perce Cultural Committee. The Nez Perce people had welcomed Lewis and Clark, but fifty years later Governor Isaac Stevens negotiated a treaty that would completely change their lives. Mr. Pinkham will describe the treaty process and what came after in this informal presentation. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and come out to the banks of the Missouri for this informal 45-minute program. The presentation moves indoors in the event of inclement weather. Program sponsored by the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association through a Forest Service Challenge Cost Share grant. When: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Where: Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Cost: FREE Contact: (406) 727-8733.

For a complete list of summer presentations at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center please visit: www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/calendar/lcic_events_2010-0610_thru_2010-1231.pdf

Gallatin and Shoshone National Forests

Gallatin and Shoshone National Forest officials have reinstated camping restrictions in areas of the Clarks Fork Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest and the Gardiner Ranger District near Cooke City, Montana, on the Gallatin National Forest.

The restriction is being implemented due to recent bear activity.

For more information please visit the Gallatin National Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/

Images Along the Trail on the Beaverhead and Salmon-Challis National Forests Summer 2010



Reservoir Lake Campground near
Bloody Dick Creek



Bannock Pass on the Idaho and Montana border



Elk on Bannock Pass



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www.fs.fed.us/nphnt/



Nez Perce National Historic Trail
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, Idaho 83544



2010 Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Meeting *Along the Trail in Nez Perce Country* August 1-4, 2010 in Lewiston, ID

Staff from the NPNHT (Sandi McFarland, Administrator, and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Special) along with Jim Evans, Executive Director for the Nez Perce Trail Foundation recently attended this meeting of more than 150 LCTHF members from across the country. NPNHT and NPTF staff met with Foundation members and local Nez Perce Tribal members who attended the conference and provided interpretation to meeting attendees.



Roger M. Peterson, US Forest Service Image



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