



United States Department of Agriculture

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

Progress Report

Winter 2018

Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) belongs to each of us. With use comes a responsibility to care for your Trail. How will you exercise that responsibility? As a Friend of the Trail, we'll show you how. Become a Friend at www.fs.usda.gov/npnht.

Join the many volunteers who play a part in helping to care for the Trail...everyday, if you are one of those who love to hike, camp, ski, hunt, fish, or paddle, we invite you to stay informed and get involved. The experiences of the NPNHT and Auto Tour Route are not-to-be-missed.

Cold weather and your favorite segment of the Trail and Auto Tour Route beckon on a winter day. Heed the call, yes, and go prepared not only with the proper clothing and gear but also with the proper knowledge. Remember, one needs at least as much fluid in winter as in summer. One should preferably drink water to stay hydrated and warm in the winter.

During the past year, the programs, events, and trail work have enriched the lives of many school children and hundreds of community members, through meaningful and engaging exhibits, open houses, and youth programs. You can read more about these activities in this and past Progress Reports.

As we end 2017, most of us turn our attention to reflecting on the past year and celebrating everything we accomplished. We want to acknowledge our most loyal supporters (that's you!) for great work accomplished this past year. In the coming year, we strengthen our mission to promote understanding, historical healing, and community amid change and diversity by continuing to present thoughtful educational programs in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act. We wish you infinite joy in 2018!

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland on the left at the recent Renegades Celebration and Pow Wow in Lapwai, ID.



Forest
Service



Nez Perce
National Historic Trail

February
2018

BLM Historic Trails Center Remembers the 1877 War and Flight

Throughout September, 2017, a temporary exhibit titled "*Hear Me My Chiefs!*" was displayed for free viewing by the public at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) [National Historic Trails Interpretive Center](#) located in Casper, WY.

The exhibit featured the 20-minute U.S. Forest Service video production [A Landscape of History](#) at its beginning, and nearly all visitors to the exhibit sat and viewed the video while in the gallery. Roughly 2,800 visitors toured the Trails Center during the month; more than 2,000 took the time to learn more about the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) from the temporary exhibit.

Using six different Pendleton blankets, including a Chief Joseph pattern and the 50th Anniversary design for Nez Perce National Historical Park, the exhibit (*photos right*) displayed five interpretive text and graphics panels that alternated with the blankets around 76 linear feet of wall space at the Trails Center. Two glass exhibit cases featured colorful displays of varied craft items of Niimiipuu origin on loan from the Idaho State Historical Museum.



Panel themes began with: (1) a characterization of the pre-contact Nez Perce homeland, and how relations with white miners and settlers led to hostilities; (2) an overview of the pursuit using interesting contemporary newspaper articles, an enlarged USGS topographic map of the White Bird Battlefield, and the new U.S. Forest Service map of the Trail in shaded topographic relief; (3) brief character profiles of key participants in the war and its consequences; followed by (4) a panel devoted to the Trail today and its meaning for all cultures, using the opposite side of the new map that shows how the Trail can be visited; and concluding with (5) a panel characterizing NPNHT as a place of learning and healing.

Information about the NPNHT was made continuously available on a table in the exhibit gallery and proved welcome as handout material to interested viewers. Additional popular handouts included the NPNHT's 140th commemorative poster, the series of eight auto tour guides, desk planners, postcards, and a regional map of the various sites that comprise the NPNHT.

The NPNHT's new five panel traveling exhibit was also on display for all visitors to take in and to enhance their knowledge of the NPNHT. This traveling exhibit is available upon request from the staff of the NPNHT, learn more in this [past Progress Report](#).

The Bureau of Land Management is honored to represent the Niimiipuu story in this way, hopefully inspiring visitors from around the world to reflect upon and learn from its profound lessons.

Reid Miller, Visitor Information Specialist, National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, Casper, WY



2018 Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic (NPNHT) Trail Desk Planners Distributed

The annual desk planner for 2018 arrived in early January, and was quickly distributed to people across the region and country, along with a few international requests.

In 2018, America will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our National Trails System. This year's version of the popular planner highlights the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. The Desk Planner is not only again filled with outstanding pictures from a variety of photographers, it depicts a number of ways which our visitors can experience the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT).

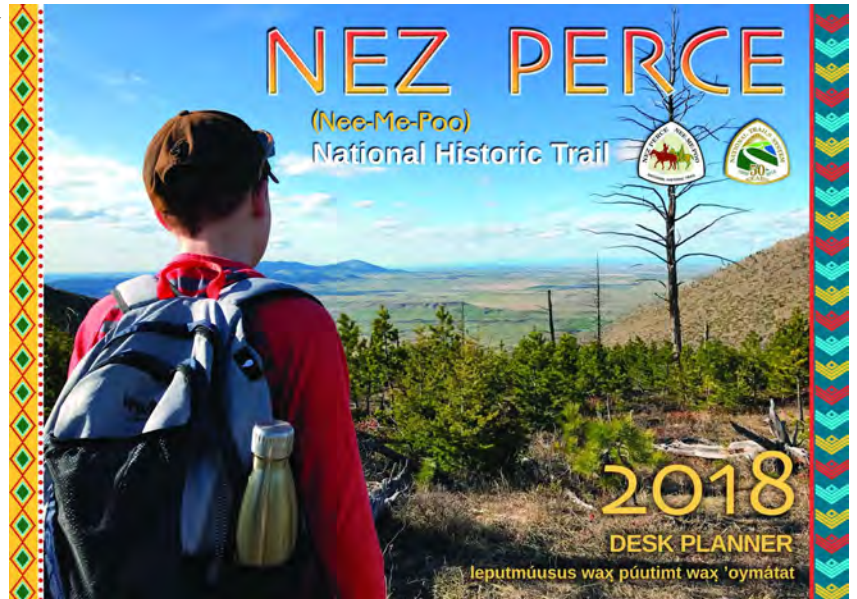
With the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968, America was given a gift the creation and protection of scenic and recreation trails that celebrate outdoor adventure and trails that allow us to journey through history, such as the NPNHT. Learn more about the entire National Trails System at: www.trails50.org.

Thanks again to Donna Sullenger with the U.S. Forest Service [Center for Design and Interpretation](#) for her outstanding work with layout and design. Also thanks to those people who provided photos and to Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner; and others who provided information on the annual events, commemorations, and pow wows.

We are always looking for new and creative ideas. If any of our partners have an idea they would like to propose for a Desk Planner theme please share it with the NPNHT staff.

We have a limited number of planners left. If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or rmpeterson@fs.fed.us.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



UPCOMING Events:



February 2018 - Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)
February 11-14, 2018—Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC
February 12, 2018—National Trails 50th Reception, Washington, DC
March 12-16, 2018 - Native American Awareness Week Lewiston, ID
March 23-30, 2018 - Sustainable Trails Conference, Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV
April 21, 2018 - Redheart Memorial, Fort Vancouver, WA
May 18-19, 2018 - Indian Arts Festival Spring Pow Wow, LaGrande, OR
June 2, 2018 - National Trails Day
October 22 – 25, 2018 - [National Trails System Conference](#), Vancouver, WA

Tips for Winter Photography

The onset of winter changes the landscape along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and the ways we enjoy the outdoors. The same holds true when photographing the profoundly beautiful winter landscapes of the NPNHT. Consider these tips for adapting your photography to the winter season.

Cold weather quickly drains camera batteries. Be sure to carry spare batteries and keep them stored in a warm place. Being outside in the cold causes condensation on lenses. Help prevent internal moisture in your camera by placing it in a sealable plastic bag before you come indoors and let the camera warm to room temperature before opening the bag.

Good lighting is the key to great pictures. The best time of the day to shoot outdoors in the snow is either early morning or late afternoon, when the low sun will add dramatic shadows and contrast to your shots. Remember to keep the sun at a right angle to your subject early or late in the day.

If you are photographing a scene that's primarily white, set your camera to overexpose to make features brighter. Be sure to look for objects that add color and contrast to the shot. Colored rocks, or a deep blue sky can all add contrast and interest.

One of the draws on the trail and Auto Tour Route are wildlife. If you're photographing animals in the winter, be sure to stay far enough away from them not to alter their behavior. Winter scenes are dynamic take the shot when you see it!

Let us know about your unforgettable experiences along the Trail and Auto Tour Route. Whether it is a place new or familiar; we would be potentially feature your work for others to enjoy.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT



Jacob W. Frank, National Park Service photo

A crisp winter morning along Nez Perce Creek, Yellowstone National Park
December 2017



Neal Herbert, National Park Service photo

Sunrise at Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, January 2016



In Memoriam: Jere Krakow—NPS, Friend of the Trails



Jere Krakow, a friend of the trails and a friend to all who knew him, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2017, at his home in Albuquerque, NM, following a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 79.

Born on June 4, 1938, Jere grew up on a farm near Davenport, NE. A granite marker near his home that commemorated the Oregon Trail was the spark that ignited his life-long interest in the American West and historic trails. After high school he completed a degree at Peru State College, then earned a Master's in U.S. History from the University of Wisconsin and a Doctorate from the University of Colorado. He was a professor of history at Missouri State University in Springfield from 1967 to 1983, teaching courses in American History, American Indians, and the West.

In the 1980s he moved from the classroom to the trails. He began as a park historian for the National Park Service and in 1995 was named Superintendent of National Trails for the Intermountain Region that administered nine national historic trails and the Route 66 preservation program.

His tenure was marked by the pursuit of his long-standing goal of connecting the nation's historic sites with all citizens.

He retired in 1997 and began two decades of volunteering with the trails organizations he loved, including the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, and many others.

In 2017, he completed six years of service on the OCTA National Board and three years as the organization's National Trails Preservation Officer. He also was the OCTA liaison to the PNTS. At last summer's OCTA convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa, he received the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, the organization's highest honor.

"His life was devoted to service in the National Park Service and the many communities in which he lived," his family said. "Jere loved the outdoors, whether camping, fishing, or hiking, and pursued knowledge and travel throughout his life. Jere had friends throughout the country and rarely met a stranger."

Jere was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Elfrieda Krakow, and his sister, Sandra Smith. He is survived by wife, Jan; sons, Jeff and Joel; and granddaughter, Moira. Memorial services were held Thursday, November 9, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 2500, Albuquerque, NM 87125, or the Oregon California Trails Association, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051.

By Bill Martin, Past President of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Jere Krakow, right, presents Reba Wells Grandrud with the Partnership for the National Trails System Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2013 Biennial Conference in Tucson, Arizona. (Photos courtesy PNTS)

A Visit with Professor Clifford E. Trafzer

In mid-December of last year, I had the honor and privilege of meeting with Professor Clifford E. Trafzer of the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Professor Trafzer is highly admired by fellow teachers and students of American history within the UCR Department of History. He has spent his life working with American Indian communities in Arizona, California, Oklahoma, and Washington. He was also appointed as the Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs, one of many honorable appointments and recognitions that he has received. *Continued on page 6*



We shared a lunch in the nearby city of Corona, CA, and quite honestly, I think that we could have talked for hours. This soft spoken, eloquent man has a deep passion for the western and northwestern tribes, as is evident from his twelve published books. We spoke about the Native American history, modern concerns, old topics, and new subjects that he is researching for yet another publication. I can't wait. Recently, he has become familiar with several Nez Perce and Yakama families while traveling through the Northwest on his fact-gathering expeditions.

After lunch, he gave me a tour of the Sherman Indian School Cemetery where Indians of many western tribes (and elsewhere) are buried. The affects of the attempted assimilation had far reaching affects, and many children where separated from their family members and homelands. It was the effort of the U.S. government to teach the Native Americans how to function within a white society, take on the white value system, demoralize them, and then civilize them. Those ethnic strategies came with a great cost, however. Disease, low morale, and low self-worth were constant issues that the administrators had to deal with. Today, I saw the final resting places of many souls that underwent such treatment. I even recognized a Nez Perce name on the granite Memorial stone.

I look forward to yet another visit with Prof. Trafzer (*photo above*), and hope that we will cross paths out on the Nez Perce Trail someday. Or, better yet, maybe he will join us on the Nez Perce Trail Foundation Summer Educational Trail Tour. Thanks Professor Trafzer!

Professor Trafzer's publications include:

- Death Stalks the Yakama
- Native Americans of Riverside County
- Yakima, Palouse, Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Wanapum Indians
- The Great Kit Carson Campaign
- Renegade Tribe: The Palouse Indians and the Invasion of the Inland Pacific Northwest
- As Long As The Grass Shall Grow, and the Rivers Flow: A History of Native Americans
- The Chinook
- Chief Joseph's Allies
- California's Indians and the Gold Rush
- The Nez Perce
- Forgotten Voices
- American Indians as Cowboys



By Karen Hagen, President, Nez Perce Trail Foundation



Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this winter 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>

Also check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.

Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



We serve to tell the Nez Perce story. We share friendships with the ancestors of those who were once called “the enemy” in the War of 1877. They were here first, living in their homelands, with so much wisdom about the natural world. Some miraculously survived. Now we strive to right the wrongs and heal old wounds. We celebrate when their youth discover their history, sometimes hidden and lost through the generations, but they also discover the pain and hardship of the tragic journey in 1877 to seek peace and freedom.

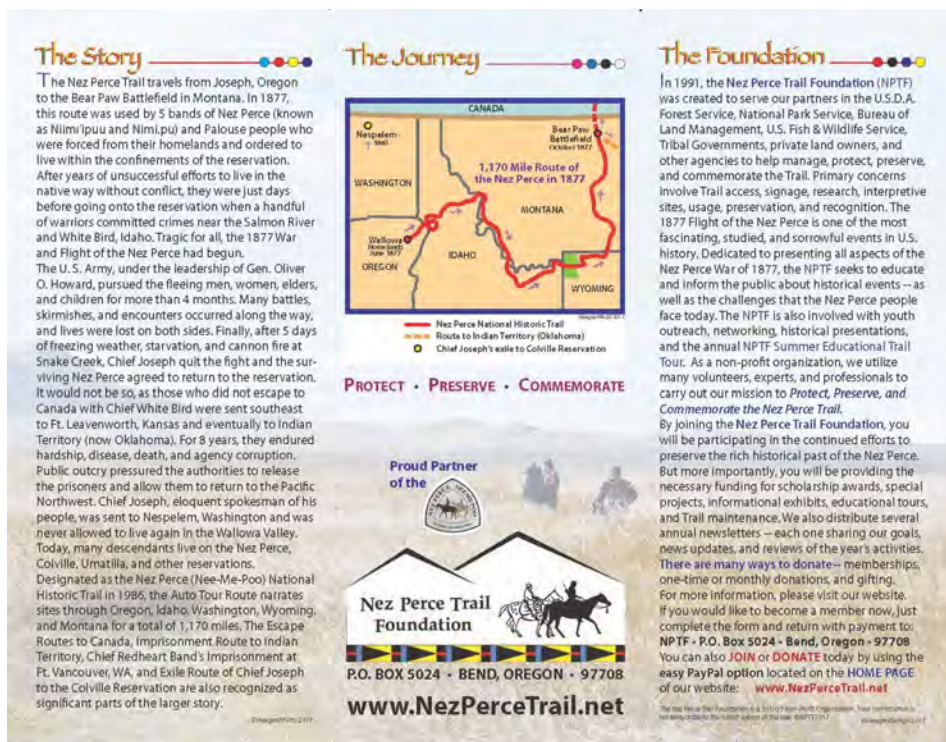
We grieve when we lose an elder and all of the knowledge that they had. This is the core of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF). We now turn the page--to the future, and more importantly, to today.

As your President, I embrace the challenge to carry out our mission to Protect, Preserve, and Commemorate the Trail -- a route that covers 1,170 miles from Wallowa, OR to Bears Paw, MT--and beyond to Canada, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nespelem, WA. It embodies so many facets of history, cultures, tribes, and boundaries.

The Executive Committee Officers, Board of Directors, and members deserve immense credit for getting the NPTF back on track and functioning as a viable Foundation again. We are now able to focus on the areas that positively affect the mission of the NPTF, its membership, its partnerships, and the public's awareness. Some of our efforts this past year (and into the future) include the promotion of the Nez Perce Trail (Trail Education and getting America out on the Trail), scholarship development, youth outreach, historical research, new recognition of sites, special projects with the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretative Center (WBNPTIC) -Basketball Court, Hike-the-Hill, Washington, D.C., establishing state and government advocates, NPTF Summer Educational Trail Tour, public outreach programs, National Park Service Visitor Center presentations, marketing, NPTF website maintenance, social media-- Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, organizational partnership development, brochure/ collateral production, fundraising, communications, newsletters, NPTF representatives at memorials, pow wows, celebrations, and cultural events-- and the list goes on!

Be assured that our team of passionate historians, ranchers, accountants, foresters, congressmen, and tribal members will continue to enlighten the world with the incredible history and accomplishments of the Nez Perce people--yesterday and today. We will continue to reach out to those who are living on different reservations-- regardless of religion, treaty or non-treaty, geography, or history. Our work continues . . . Let's all reflect. Let's make 2018 better for all.

Sincerely, Karen Hagen, President, Nez Perce Trail Foundation



A new Nez Perce Trail Foundation brochure was recently produced and is available upon request.



News From the National Park Service: Nez Perce National Historical Park

Now that the holidays have passed and we are settling into the New Year, let us officially welcome two new permanent staff members to Nez Perce National Historical Park.

Mike Gauthier, who has been serving as the Acting Superintendent since May, was selected as the Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park this past December. Mike succeeds Tami DeGrosky who retired in April. A full profile for Mike can be found on page 16.

The Interpretive and Education Division has just hired a new park ranger, Kate Kunkel-Patterson (*photo right*). Kate comes to us from Whitman Mission National Historic Site in Walla Walla, WA, where she has worked as a Park Guide since 2015. Kate graduated from Whitman College and worked at Whitman Mission National Historic Site as a seasonal Park Guide for two seasons. She has also worked as an interpretive guide at Fort Sumter National Monument and Lincoln Home National Historic Site. We are excited to have Kate on our team and look forward to her starting in at the Park in February.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Hopefully, you had a chance to stop in and take part in the 21st Annual Beadwork Bazaar (*photo left*) that took place on December 2. There were roughly 30 vendors available to show case their work, answer questions, and sell their items to holiday shoppers. Roughly 275 visitors stopped in and helped make this a fun and successful event. We hope to see you next December.

At this time park staff are preparing for our 2018 season. We are planning a Culture Day Pow wow in May, an evening Night Sky program in August, and of course our 22nd Annual Beadwork Bazaar in December. We will have monthly speakers starting in February and cultural demonstrators available two days a month in the summer. 2018 is also the “Year of the Bird” and there will be several activities and projects announced throughout the year. One of which, is a new temporary exhibit that will be on display in the Park museum, starting February 23. Keep an eye out for further details as we look forward to your visit during this exciting year.

The visitor center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. All programs, events, and presentations are free. For information regarding future events please contact the park at 208-843-7009.

Brett Spaulding, Supervisory Park Ranger, Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

With the coming of winter visitation has dropped and snow has arrived in the Big Hole Valley. We closed the road to the lower parking lot and trail heads due to snow accumulation, but visitors can still access the lower parking lot, camp site, siege area, and Howitzer Hill by snowshoeing or cross country skiing. The Park loans snowshoes on days when the temperature exceeds zero degrees.



Despite low visitation, staff has kept busy. We would especially like to acknowledge the efforts of our intern, Amanda Thibault, who has assisted with the creation of web content strategies for both Big Hole National Battlefield and Nez Perce National Historical Park. With her help, we are in the process of redesigning the two websites so that there is a seamless transition between them for the web user. In particular, we would like to showcase her work on the Nez Perce Flight of 1877's pages, which can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/nepe/learn/historyculture/1877.htm>. Amanda's internship ends in mid-February, but she leaves behind a legacy that will help people world-wide better understand the Flight and figure out how they can visit key sites along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.

It's that time of year when we recruit cultural demonstrators to share their stories and skills with the public. We are seeking interested participants for Coyote Camp (May 21-25) and the Summer Speaker Series (potential weekend dates starting with June 23 - August 12). Housing, mileage, per diem, and honorarium will be provided. If you are interested in being a part of either (or both) of these exciting programs please contact the Park for an application at (406) 689-3155 x 1029 or e-mail: BIHO_Visitor_Information@nps.gov. All applications must be received by March 1, 2017.

Rebekah Jones, Lead Park Ranger, Big Hole National Battlefield



Bear Paw Battlefield

When I go to the battlefield in the winter I often have the place to myself. It only takes a few moments to collect the trash and clean the restrooms but I always take a moment to reflect. Winter and a new year is a good time for reflection, looking back to change course for the future.

A thought I keep coming back to that is as relevant today as it was in 1877 is how misunderstanding can lead to so much fear and anger. Not the misunderstanding of words and meaning but of values. Working to understanding someone does not mean agreeing with someone, nor does it mean that they will work to understand you. Working towards understanding and honest communication is the only way to avoid what follows fear and anger, violence.

If you are still looking for a resolution that doesn't take dragging yourself out of bed to go the gym, you could instead try exercising patience and humility while work towards understanding. As Chief Joseph said in a speech at Lincoln Hall in Washington D.C., 1879, "I believe much trouble and blood would be saved if we opened our hearts more."

Casey Overturf, Lead Park Ranger, Bear Paw Battlefield



Chief Joseph





News From the Forest Service: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The snowpack at Lolo Pass is off to a great start in 2018. As of January, Lolo Pass had 60 inches of snow on the ground. All of the winter trails are being groomed and our avalanche beacon training park is available to visitors.

The Forest Service has several events planned for February. Our annual Full Moon Event will be February 2 and on February 3-4, the Lolo Pass Visitor Center (*photo above*) will be hosting our first Winter Skills Demo Weekend.

Our Winter Skills Demo days is your chance to get outside and improve your winter skills. We will have local outdoor recreation professionals on site to answer your questions and help you test out the latest technology and gear available on the market. February 3 will be our “motorized day” and February 4 will be our “non-motorized day” at Lolo Pass. We will be hosting sessions on winter camping, beginner ski clinics, avalanche awareness and avalanche beacon use, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling.

Buffie Cerutti, Manager
Lolo Pass Visitor Center
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



U.S. Forest Service photo



News From the Forest Service: Bitterroot National Forest

Job Corps Crew Clears the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

The day dawned with humidity and rain. After a searing hot summer full of smoke-filled skies, this day looked very much like every other one, but it felt so different with foggy rain clouds entering the scene, rather than smoke. My trail crew today from the Trapper Creek Job Corps was a crew of two. We took up the task of clearing the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) from the base of the climb up to Lost Trail Pass on trail #406.

My crosscut saw partner, Ethan, and I started out through the recently thinned trailhead, not sure of how many trees we would encounter. Our axe was sharp and our saw was ready to sing, however. Overdressed for the weather, we huffed up the first mile without seeing a single tree to cut. As the grade increased and a few rogue claps of thunder cracked overhead, we encountered some work. The fog created a wonderful silence and stillness and each pull of the saw made the only sounds on the trail. It was not hard to imagine the Nez Perce (Niimiipuu) using this route, and I fully expected to see them emerge from the fog.

The work proved to be fairly light over the three miles to the junction of Gibbons Pass Road and eventually the junction with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Swinging axes and pulling saws seemed fitting on this quiet, foggy day on a trail used by some of our most well-known forbearers. We were happy to follow in their footsteps, clear the trail, and feel the presence of the Nez Perce (Niimiipuu) on the NPNHT and Trail segment #406 on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Greg Aerni, West Fork Ranger District Trail Technician



U.S. Forest Service photo

A foggy scene near the Gibbons pass and the top of the NPNHT.





News From the Forest Service:

Lolo National Forest

Approximately 15.5 miles of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) are located within the Lolo Creek U.S. Highway 12 drainage managed by the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The NPNHT on the Forest is divided into seven distinct management areas between Graves Creek and the Montana/Idaho border. During the 2017 field season (April thru September), the NPNHT Ranger maintained the Trail, the Highway 12 interpretive corridor, the facilities that directly support the use of the NPNHT (historic sites, campgrounds, picnic areas, public restrooms), and also provided interpretive information about the NPNHT to the public. The NPNHT Ranger, along with the NPNHT funded Weed Technician, also monitored the trail for new weed invaders, removed (pulled) weeds from trail access points, and treated weed infestations along the trail and at recreation sites. Collateral duties included: conducting visitor compliance checks, dispersed campsite maintenance, travel plan management and monitoring, and dumpsite clean-up. The NPNHT Ranger worked throughout the field season to ensure the best service to the public.

To alleviate over signing, trail markers were removed in areas where the public could see multiple markers from one location or the trails existence was obvious. Maintenance was provided on 215 NPNHT markers and travel management signs.

NPNHT Trail Maintenance: The NPNHT Ranger along with assistance from the Missoula trail crew cleared a total of 87 trees from the trail. Where practical, trees that could be easily be stepped over were left on site in order to meet trail maintenance standards to maintain the feel of a historic trail.

This past season the NPNHT Ranger came in contact with visitors from all walks of life. Highway 12 has gained fame for being a beautiful and bike-friendly route for cross-country cyclists, and the NPNHT Ranger met many who traveled from as far as Germany to bike the route. Visitors often commented on how well-maintained the historic site, campgrounds, and interpretive sites were kept, and they were frequently interested in knowing more about the NPNHT and its history. Over the course of the summer, an estimated 410 forest visitors were contacted.

The purpose of the 2017 NPNHT noxious and invasive weed species project was to treat weed infestations along the 15.5 miles of NPNHT located on the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The most heavily infested segments of the trail and trailheads were treated with herbicide, hand pulling, and/or mechanically treated in order to preserve the trail's natural/primitive condition, as well as to reduce the future spread of invasive weed species along the Trail.

On July 26, 1877, Captain Charles Rawn of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry met with Chief Looking Glass and Chief Whitebird of the Nez Perce near today's Fort Fizzle Historic Site Picnic Area. In remembrance of those events and more, the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History (RMMMH) hosted an event commemorating the Fort Fizzle confrontation on July 25, 2017 (*photo right*).



2017 Sampling of the work accomplished the staff follows:

- Cleaned up litter at the Highway 12 interpretive sites
- Interpretive sign and trail maintenance
- Removed numerous dumpsites from the National Forest adjacent to the NPNHT corridor
- 40 feet of telephone wire was bundled and removed from the NPNHT near the Howard Creek trailhead
- Removed graffiti from campgrounds and signs when discovered
- Replaced/repainted multiple travel management and road signs
- Restrooms cleaned and repairs made
- Sanded, repaired, painted more than a dozen picnic table at multiple locations
- Mowed and trimmed the grounds at several recreation sites

2017 was a very dry summer with plenty of fire activity in the region. On July 15, 2017, lightening from a passing weather front caused many small fires to spark up on the Lolo National Forest. One of those sparks, the Lolo Peak Fire, would grow to burn more than 50,000 acres over the course of the summer. The smoke from this fire and others in the area produced consecutive weeks of unhealthy and hazardous air quality conditions in both Missoula and Ravalli Counties. On August 25, while making a routine patrol of the NPNHT between Fish Creek Road (343) and the Lolo Hot Springs Resort, the NPNHT Ranger was the first to observe and report a thick smoke rising somewhere nearby. This fire became the Lolo Hot Springs Fire and was discovered very close to Highway 12 and private property. It was attacked aggressively and its early detection was instrumental in keeping it from growing out of control.

Al Hilshey, Natural Resource Specialist, Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest





Nee-Me-Poo Trail Maintenance Report

Lolo Trail

The Tribe offers job training and education programs that provide tribal members with outdoor skills, job ethics, community and independent living skills. These programs introduce tribal members to the management of natural and cultural resources on National Forest System lands.

The Lolo trail from Musselshell Meadows to the 500 Road was divided into seven management sections. During the field season, these management sections are lumped into four hitches by trail maintenance crew due to access point and distance to suitable camping locations. Typically a section marks the halfway point between road accesses providing the crew with an opportunity to hike out without completing the next section of trail. Musselshell Meadows to the Yoosa comprises Hitch 1 and is divided into section 1 and 2 at the first stream crossing of Siberia Creek. This hitch takes an average of 2-3 days to complete. Hitch 2, Yoosa to Camp Martin is the longest hitch taking up to 3-7 days, depending on trail conditions. Sections 3 and 4 are separated at Ira's Tree in proximity to Road 5185-A, an ATV access road. The final three sections follow in close proximity to 104 comprise Hitch 3.

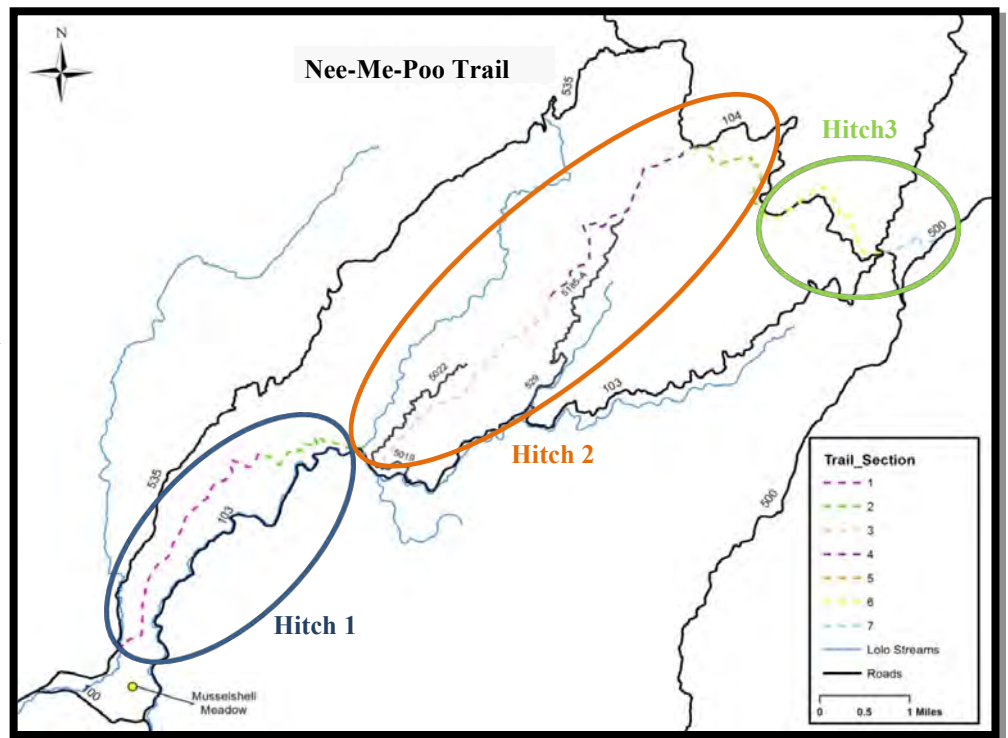


Figure 1 Trail sections throughout the Nee-Me-Poo Trail

The Nez Perce Tribe and USDA Forest Service work agreement consists of the Nez Perce Tribe clearing out, logging out, loose rock removal, drainage maintenance, brush cutting, slide maintenance, and tread repair on the Lolo Trail. Field crews follow minimum impact camping guidelines provided by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. *Continued on page 13*



Results

Trail maintenance completed in 2017 took place over three weeks. The field crew encountered difficulties maintaining pace due to snow pack. Hitches could not be completed in one time period and were split up with time off in-between sections to allow for snow to recede. The bulk of the maintenance for all sections consisted of clearing out downed logs and digging out wooden water bars.



Due to increased snow pack, no water bars were replaced in 2017. Sections 5, 6, and 7 are still experiencing impacts from the fire in 2015. These areas have little to no brush but many downed trees.

From Lolo Forks to Beaver Dam saddle an above average amount of weeds were observed along the trail corridor. The most prevalent weeds observed were hounds tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*). A large patch of hounds tongue was observed between Camp Martin and Lolo Forks. The open canopy from the 2015 fire season could allow for a rapid spread rate, and therefore attention should be given to this area in future years. Estimated treatment time is one week or more depending on the size and distribution of patches.

A pioneered road (*photo left*) was found coming down an open ridge, the use of the road is unknown but is likely for recreational use and firewood gathering. GPS coordinates and photos were taken to help aid in determining the origin of the road and develop a strategy to prevent future use.

Discussion

Trail maintenance has occurred for several years on the Lolo Trail through a partnership between the Nez Perce Tribe and U.S. Forest Service. The 2017 season was successful in completing the trail and distinguishing problematic segments in need of future repair. This season the field crew experienced a decrease in production due to increased snowpack. Although difficult at times restoration actions proceeded.

Future Actions

The National Appaloosa Horse Club will be riding this section of the NPNHT in 2020 as part of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride. During this annual event, riders traverse one of thirteen 100 mile sections between Wallowa Lake, OR, and the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook MT. The number of riders range between 150 and 200 during this event, so long term maintenance activities should be considered before and after the ride.

Future plans are to increase weed treatment practices in hopes of reducing patch size and distribution along the trail corridor as well as keep invasion at a minimum to surrounding forest environments.

Priority will be along sections 4 to 7. For trail maintenance the highest priority for next season is to remove rebar and install waterbars in section 4.

During the annual post trail maintenance tour, we observed several pieces of rebar from deteriorated and burned out water bars protruding from the ground. Due to safety concerns, and gradually moving away from log water bars, all un-needed rebar will be pulled, packed to the trailhead, and later recycled.

Lessons Learned

Due to increased snow pack in 2017 (*photo right*), crews were delayed in completion of trail maintenance from Snowy Summit to the 500 road. In the future, crews will work with partners to determine which sections of trail can be cleared. It has been advised that the field crew or student interns pass a basic pack test in order to help with trail maintenance.



Conclusion

The Niimípuu have used the Lolo Nee-Me-Poo trail since time immemorial and are inextricably linked to the trail. As co-managers of the trail, the Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division, is compelled and dedicated to protecting and restoring the trail and preserving historic values.

Portions of a larger report prepared by: Justin Peterson and Elizabeth Eastman, Nez Perce Tribe





News From the Forest Service: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – 2017 Accomplishments

This year the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) received \$18,000 for trail and site maintenance. A total of \$13,000 was received from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) administration, and \$5,000 from the Pacific NW Regional Office.

With these funds Forest staff accomplished trail and site maintenance on:

- The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (#1727)
- Indian Grove Village Trail and Interpretive Site
- Eureka Creek (1732) and Tulley Creek (#1724)
- Corral Creek (#1698)

Nez Perce (Nee-Mee-Poo) National Historic Trail (#1727)

The crew completed annual maintenance on 3.36 miles of trail. The trail was logged out, brushed, drainage structures cleaned, and some tread restoration due to sloughing. In addition the sign and rock cairns were checked, and repaired as needed. Structures maintained: six. Structures constructed: two.

Indian Village Grove Trail and Interpretive Site

This year the trail crew completed 0.3 miles of trail maintenance including logging out, trailside brushing, and raking the tread or weedeating the grass to enhance the trail location. The trail cairns and waterbars were also maintained.

In addition to the trail maintenance, Forest staff leveraged time funded under the regional Conservation Education program. As part of this program Wallowa County 4th graders (*photo right*) were taken on field trips to the Zumwalt Prairie and the Indian Village Grove. During the trips students learned about Nez Perce (Niimípuu) subsistence foods and practice, and the natural and human history of the Wallowa and Hells Canyon country.

Corral Creek Trail #1698

This season trail work on the 4.8 miles of Corral Creek focused again on removing down logs and brush, removing debris and rocks from the trail tread, upkeep of trail markers, and tread re-established where sloughing had occurred. At the upper section rock cairns were maintained, and Nee-Me-Poo trail signs were checked for condition.

Log-out in the upper portions of the trail was significant again this season due to severe wind storms from this past winter. Structures maintained: seven. Structures constructed: two.

Tully Creek Trail #1724

Chainsaw and hand tools were used to remove the trailside brush, route markers and drainage maintained on the 4.0 miles of trail. The rocks and debris were also removed from the trail tread. Structures maintained: four. Structures constructed: one.

Eureka Creek Trail #1732

Approximately 1.25 miles of trail had logs, rock and debris removed from the trail tread.



U.S. Forest Service photo



U.S. Forest Service photo

Dan Ermovick, Forest Recreation Program Manager



New Faces Along the Trail:

Tony Tooke 18th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

On September 1, 2017, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue administered the oath of office to Tony Tooke, who became the 18th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, in a ceremony at White Mountain National Forest. Tooke has worked for the Forest Service since age 18 – with 37 total years of service – and prior to becoming Chief was the Regional Forester for the Southern Region.

“Tony Tooke is truly a home-grown Chief, having worked his entire adult life for the Forest Service, and he comes on board at a time of great opportunity to reform our approach to forest management,” Perdue said. “He will oversee efforts to get our forests working again, to make them more productive, and to create more jobs. Additionally, wildfires have been aggressive this season, and it is frustrating to see that a greater and greater percentage – now 55 percent – of our Forest Service budget is spent on fire suppression. This diminishes our efforts to mitigate disasters in advance. I am committed to finding a permanent solution to this budget imbalance, and Tony’s leadership will be key to accomplishing that goal.”

“I am deeply humbled to have been asked to serve as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service,” said Chief Tooke. “I have tremendous respect for our history and those who have served before me – their leadership has inspired my own. I admire our on-the-ground work and our dedicated workforce, at every level of the agency that make it possible. Together, with our many partners, volunteers, and local and state leaders, we have much to accomplish to fulfill our continuing conservation mission and serve people and communities everywhere.”

Tooke has worked for the Forest Service since he was 18 years old, including many assignments in Region 8 and the Washington Office (WO), most recently as the Regional Forester for the Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service. In that role, he was responsible for 3,100 employees, 14 national forests, and two managed areas, which encompass more than 13.3 million acres in 13 states and Puerto Rico. In his new role as U.S. Forest Service Chief, he takes over an agency that oversees 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico.

His previous position in Washington, DC, was Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System; with oversight of Lands and Realty, Minerals and Geology, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, the National Partnership Office, and Business Administration and Support Services.

As Associate Deputy Chief, Tooke was the Forest Service Executive Lead for Environmental Justice; Farm Bill implementation; and implementation of the Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Improvement Strategy. Another priority included implementation of a new planning rule for the National Forest System.

Also in the WO, Tooke served as Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination, Deputy Director for Economic Recovery, and Assistant Director for Forest Management.

Prior to 2006, Tooke served as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Florida as well as District Ranger assignments at the Talladega National Forest in Alabama, the Oconee National Forest in Georgia, and the DeSoto National Forest in Mississippi. His other field assignments were Timber Management Assistant, Other Resource Assistant, Silviculturist, and Forester on six Ranger Districts in Mississippi and Kentucky. Tooke grew up on a small 200-acre farm in Detroit, Alabama. He earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry from Mississippi State University. He was in the Forest Service’s inaugural class of the Senior Leadership Program, and he has completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.



U.S. Forest Service photo



New Faces Along the Trail:

Mike Gauthier Named Nez Perce National Historical Park Superintendent

San Francisco CA - The National Park Service has selected Mike Gauthier to be the Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park. Gauthier succeeds Tami DeGrosky who retired in April.

Gauthier is a seasoned park ranger who has worked at Olympic, Mount Rainier, Denali and Yosemite national parks. Over his 32-year career he has served as a wilderness ranger, firefighter, fee collector, custodian, climbing ranger, and search and rescue coordinator. In 2008, Gauthier was selected as a Bevinetto Fellow and worked one year with the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and a second year with the Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks. He transitioned to Yosemite National Park as the chief of staff in 2010, and most recently served as the Acting Superintendent at Cape Lookout National Seashore.



“Gauthier has strong leadership skills and a diverse range of experience from his work in the backcountry to the halls of Congress,” said Martha Lee acting Pacific West Region regional director. “We are delighted to welcome him to the region’s superintendent ranks.”

Gauthier joined the Park Service in 1985 and holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Washington, in Seattle, WA. He enjoys writing, climbing, snowboarding, whitewater boating, and photography. “It’s an honor and privilege to serve the staff, tribes, friends, and partners of Nez Perce National Historical Park as the Superintendent,” said Gauthier. “I am thrilled to return to the northwest and to help participate in the stewardship of the unique and important historical perspective of the Nez Perce Indians.”

He will assume the new assignment immediately and will permanently move to the area in early 2018.

Established by an act of Congress in 1965, the Nez Perce National Historical Park focuses on a people who live in a landscape that ancestors called home. The story of the Nez Perce is told through thirty-eight sites scattered across four states - Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The National Park Service administers nine of these sites.



Mike Gauthier at the [Heart of the Monster](#) near Kamiah, ID



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Winter Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Bear Paw Battlefield, MT

National Park Service photo



Chief Joseph Pass, MT

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Nez Perce Creek, WY

Jacob W. Frank, National Park Service photo



Pompeys Pillar National Monument, MT

Jared Werning, Bureau of Land Management photo



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