



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

Progress Report

Fall 2016



Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

Every exploration inspires moments of wonder, encouraging youth to discover the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and to embark on adventures, and try something new. Come, learn, play, and enjoy!

We are so glad you decided to spend time with us this past summer. May your fall travels on the Trail be memorable, your journey safe, and this visit one of many to come. We invite you to be part of the NPNHT by sharing your stories.

There is still time to escape today and explore the NPNHT's iconic past. Come enjoy the NPNHT mountains of opportunities-all with so many options for new and experienced outdoor enthusiasts including hiking, biking, camping, driving, hunting, fishing, fall foliage photographing, or dipping and soaking in a hot springs.

The shortest distance between two people is a story. What really matters is listening to you and understanding the meaning behind your NPNHT story. Yes, we administer the Trail, but connecting with all your hearts is what truly counts. History is seen through many lenses. What's your story?

Our staff is committed to being the "helpful place" by offering knowledgeable advice, helpful service, and quality interpretation, and educational products. We believe that helping you is one of the most important things we do.

Many hands make the work light. It is amazing what a group of interested, capable, energetic people can accomplish in just a few days. It leaves one with good memories of a job well done and new friends met. Without your assistance as volunteers and partners, we would not accomplish as much, nor would our jobs as Forest Service NPNHT staff be as rewarding. We truly value your help and enthusiasm.

Historic preservation must be an important value. We are pleased to join in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Stay tuned as we begin to unveil plans for celebrating. Help us to continue to carry out the NHPA.

"The spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage;...the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people."

-Preamble to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; 16 U.S.C. 470 sec.1.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail at the 2016 Montana History Conference

The 43rd Annual Montana History Conference, Roots & Branches, was held in Hamilton and Stevensville, MT, on September 22-24, 2016. The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) was represented in a session entitled *Following the Nez Perce Trail*.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Trail Administrator, was unable to attend and so Milo McLeod agreed to sit in for her. Milo's career with the Forest Service and his deep knowledge of the Trail served the team well, in particular his reflections on the Lolo Trail.

Tamar Stanley, Executive Director of the Ravalli County Museum (and soon to be home to a new NPNHT exhibit), detailed the history of the three sod forts built to keep settlers safe during the passing of the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce were peaceful and even curious about the forts, so they were never used for the purpose they were constructed. They do, however, provide an interesting insight into the temperament of Bitterroot settlers in 1877. Details and photos in Tamar's presentation were gleaned from the rich resources of the Ravalli County Museum Archives, which are open to the public.

Amy Miller, graduate student in the Anthropology Department at the University of Montana and a seasonal employee at the Big Hole National Battlefield, presented an overview of her work to locate the NPNHT in Carbon County. Her first field season didn't meet with total success in locating the Trail but helped her form theories on how to pursue the work in future years. After her work on the ground last summer, it appears certain that the Trail, as drawn during the designation process, is not an accurate route. Amy's presentation drew out several audience members who had questions as well as suggestions, insights, and encouragement for her continued work. It was great to see the outpouring of collegial assistance and support for Amy's effort.

Wrapping up the panel presentations was Kristine Komar, President of the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust. Kris discussed the efforts underway among Bitterroot Valley heritage organizations to interpret the three National Trails that are separated in time but share the same auto tour route: the NPNHT, the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. As part of a partnership with the Museum, the NPNHT staff, and Nez Perce Tribal staff and Elders, a new traveling exhibit is in the final stages of preparation. Additionally, the partnership has plans to further magnify the story of the NPNHT through the Bitterroot and Big Hole Valleys. Closing comments encouraged everyone along the Trail to 'rediscover' the Nez Perce Trail and interpret it within their communities and to travelers; perhaps beginning with booking the traveling exhibit. Four communities in attendance expressed interest: Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, Roundup; Upper Musselshell Museum, Ryegate; Carbon County Historical Society, Red Lodge; and Sheridan.

The NPNHT's new five panel traveling exhibit (*photo above*) was also on display for all conference attendees to take in and to enhance their knowledge of the NPNHT. It is available for use, if you are interested contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, for details on how to reserve it for your facility.

The History Conference was held at venues that are along the NPNHT and Auto Tour Route.



Kristine Komar
Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust

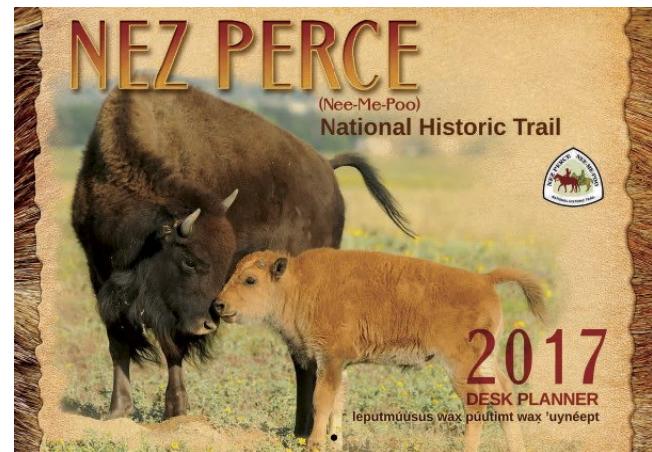
2017 Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Desk Planners Coming Soon

The annual desk planner has been sent to the printer, and delivery is anticipated before the end of the year. Trail staff will begin distribution to partners and visitor centers along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) as soon as they arrive.

This year's version of the popular planner depicts wildlife along the NPNHT. The Desk Planner is not only again filled with outstanding pictures from a variety of photographers but also includes information about the Nez Perce connections to the animals depicted, including connections to the events of 1877 as well as Niimíipuu stories and cultural significances associated with the animals.

Special thanks to Donna Sullenger of the Center for Design and Interpretation/USDA Forest Service for layout and design, Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner, and to Catherine Arthur-Bigman, Mary Hawkins, Juliana Luke, Shoshoni Walker, and Deidre Ellsworth for providing dates for events throughout the year. Also thank you to Wilfred "Scotty" Scott from the Nez Perce Tribe who provided information on the annual commemorations.

We hope everyone will enjoy this year's Desk Planner.



Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

Nez Perce National Historical Trail Assists with Sponsorship of 19th Annual PACE

The Nez Perce Tribe and the Nez Perce Tribe's Environmental Restoration & Waste Management (ERWM) Program completed their **19th Annual "Preparing for Academic Excellence" (PACE) Math & Science Camp** on Friday, July 29, 2016.

Despite funding issues and some minor obstacles, Solo Greene, the ERWM Education Specialist and PACE Coordinator, said, "The camp was a huge success. It seems like every year we struggle with funding issues, but we find a way to pull it together and make it happen. It isn't a very easy task sometimes, but in the end it is always worth it"



Photo courtesy of the Nez Perce Tribe

We had a total of twenty-nine PACE students, which represented three different States (Idaho, Washington and Oregon), six different school districts (Lapwai, Lewiston, Clarkston, Kamiah, Moscow and Portland), seven different schools (Lapwai Middle School, Kamiah Middle School, Jenifer Junior High, Sacajawea Junior High, Lincoln Middle School, Moscow Middle School, and Cal Young Middle School), and five different Federally Recognized Indian Tribes (Nez Perce, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Coeur D'Alene, Yakama, and Sho-Ban), six high school counselors from Lapwai and Clarkston, and four college counselors from Lewis-Clark State College, Walla Walla Community College and Blue Mountain Community College.

One of the goals of the PACE Program is to introduce the students and staff to a variety of different natural resources/environmental fields, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); history, culture; and traditions of the Nez Perce.

Solo also added, "With the Nez Perce Nation being so rich in natural resources and so much going on around the world with climate change and global warming, it is important for us to introduce and gain the interest into the STEM fields and make the correlation and connection between Western Science and the traditions and culture of the Nez Perce and Native Americans throughout North America. Students and people need to know and understand the importance of a formal education and how it relates and contributes to who we are and how we live."

Solo Greene, Nez Perce Tribe, ERWM Education Specialist

Confluence Story Gatherings Honor Indigenous Voices

Confluence will kick off a series of public forums that are intended to elevate indigenous voices in our understanding of the Columbia River system. Confluence Story Gatherings are story-driven discussions, framed by excerpts from interviews of native elders and leaders.

First-person story telling has a unique power to deepen our understanding of the histories, cultures and environment that surrounds us. Confluence Story Gatherings are welcoming forums that feature the stories of native elders, told in their own voices, as a way to explore the interconnectedness of people and places of the Columbia River system. The events will feature video or audio selections of first-person narratives, produced by our partners at NW Documentary, followed by a discussion led by a panel of native elders, leaders and writers.

“We know that there are more people to interview than we the capacity for...we are aware that we’re only scratching the surface,” said Colin Fogarty Executive Director of Confluence. “Other Tribes have their own oral history as well. This project is meant to augment them, not to replace them.”

Confluence Story Gathering interviewees so far include: Greg Archuleta (Grand Ronde), Virginia Beavert (Yakama), Roberta and Leah Conner (Umatilla), Johnny Jackson (Yakama), Louie Pitt (Warm Springs), Aurelia Staccona (Warm Springs), Wilfred and Bessie Scott (Nez Perce) and Wilbur Slockish (Yakama).

Confluence Story Gatherings are free and open to the public. These events are sponsored by a generous grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. Support for Confluence interviews comes from Paul B. and Deborah D. Speer, Steve and Jan Oliva and Broughton and Mary Bishop.



Photo courtesy of NW Documentary
Robert (Bobbie) Conner (left) and her mother, Leah Conner are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Confluence is a community-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through art and education. We work in collaboration with Northwest communities, tribes and celebrated artist Maya Lin to create reflective moments that can shape the future of the Columbia River system. We share stories of this river through six public art installations, educational programs, community engagement and a rich digital experience.



Wilfred “Scotty” (left) and Bessie Scott, members of the Nez Perce Tribe

Photo courtesy of NW Documentary

The first forum in this series was held on November 12, 2016, at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute in Pendleton, OR, check the [Confluence website](#) soon for Podcasts from this gathering.

Panelists for the Story Gathering at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute included:

Roberta (Bobbie) Conner, Tamástslikt Director, who was raised in Cayuse Country and spent most of her formative years on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Her work as an author, speaker, local and national leader, and a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation earned the 2007 Buffett Award and Oregon Poet Laureate Elizabeth Woody is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, of Yakama Nation descent, and is “born for” the Tódich’iinii (Bitter Water clan) of the Navajo Nation. Elizabeth has published three books of poetry. She also writes short fiction, essays, and is a visual artist.

Future public forums will be held during the first part of 2017 at the following locations:

- February 18, 2017, 2-4 p.m. PST: Liberty Theater, Astoria, OR
- April 15, 2017, 1-3 p.m. PDT: Alberta Rose Theatre, Portland, OR
- May 6, 2017, 2-4 p.m. PDT: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, OR

To reserve your seats, contact program manager Courtney Yilk at 360-693-0123 or Courtney@ConfluenceProject.org.

Media inquiries, contact executive director Colin Fogarty at 503-720-3112 or Colin@ConfluenceProject.org.

Confluence thanks the following partners, Columbia River Maritime Museum, Oregon Humanities, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Historical Society, NW Documentary, Portland State University (PSU) Native American Student and Community Center, PSU History Department, Umatilla County Historical Society, and the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute.

Confluence is a community-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through art and education. We work in collaboration with Northwest communities, tribes and celebrated artist Maya Lin to create reflective moments that can shape the future of the Columbia River system. We share stories of this river through six public art installations, educational programs, community engagement and a rich digital experience.

Colin Fogarty Executive Director of Confluence

National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Trail Work Summer 2016

The Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation, Inc., was once again back on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) this summer. The 2016 edition of the Lolo Work Week was held July 31 to August 6. The hardy volunteers moved in on July 31 and closed camp and cleaned up to return home on August 6. They worked Monday to Friday August 1-5. Camp was again in NoSeeEm Meadows just off the Lolo



Photo Courtesy of Chuck Raddon, LCHTF

Motorway (500 Road) in Central Idaho (photo below). We were again supported by a water trailer with domestic water donated by Asker Foods of Grangeville, ID, and two portable toilets on a trailer donated by A&A Sanitation from Orofino, ID. The crew was smaller this year, some days being as few as six and as many as 12 since several volunteers were unable to remain all week.

Due to the heavy winter blow-down of trees our goal was to open the NPNHT from Weitas Meadows to the trailhead east of the Sinque Hole. We did not make it. About half the distance east from a point half way between the Castle Butte road turnoff and the Smoking Place was left unopened. This year crews were equipped with a large and a small chain saw, and between two and four hours of cutting per day per crew was experienced. Every crew - every day encountered clusters of down trees, often five or more in one place, often 20 inches or more in diameter, and often falling lengthwise on the trail requiring many cuts to make the pieces small enough to move off the trail. By noon most crews, (average age 60+, oldest 77) were exhausted. For safety reasons little was accomplished later in the day. The volunteers opened 20 miles of trail.

Chuck Raddon Idaho Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

The staff of the NPNHT thanks these volunteers for your hard work and dedication to ensuring portions of the Trail are open for visitors to experience!

UPCOMING Events:



- November 2016 — National Native American Heritage Month
- November 11, 2016 — Veterans Day Weekend (fees waived at National Public Lands Agencies)
- November 18-19, 2016 — Young Nations Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID
- December 3, 2016 —Annual Bead Bazaar, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, ID, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST
- January-March, 2017 —Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)
- February 12-15, 2017 —[Hike the Hill](#): Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC
- February 18, 2017, Confluence Story Gatherings Forum, Liberty Theater, Astoria, OR., 2-4 p.m. PST



NPNHT Comprehensive Plan Revision Update

The Federal Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is in the process of being signed by the National Park Service (NPS) Regional Directors, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regional Directors, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Directors. Then it will be signed by four U.S. Forest Service Regional Foresters with the last being Northern Regional Forester Leanne Marten. After that it will be in place for 10 years, expiring in 2026. This MOU covers normal administrative and managerial work on the NPNHT as did the previous MOU. Added into this version is language about working together in planning efforts, tribal consultation, and working with state and local governments.

The Right-of-Way Maps have been reviewed and approved by all 11 National Forests. The USFWS has agreed the maps are sufficient for their units. The maps are currently under review by BLM and NPS units with an anticipated completion of all federal reviews by end of December 2016. The next step will be tribal, state, and local government reviews early next year.

The Comprehensive Plan Interdisciplinary Team has been hired and is starting to review existing federal land management plans. They will begin their work on developing the NPNHT existing condition report this winter with a team meeting in the field late in the spring of 2017. The team members come from the Forest Service Enterprise group and are located across the United States. The timeline is to have a draft Comprehensive Plan completed by September 2017. Julie Molzahn and Roger Peterson will be working on the visitor experience/public outreach section of the plan this winter.

Julie has received Chapters I and II back from the U.S. Forest Service's Washington Office following their review. She will be working with our new writer editor to complete the final draft for Interagency review this winter.

Julie Molzahn, CP Revision Coordinator, NPNHT

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>

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

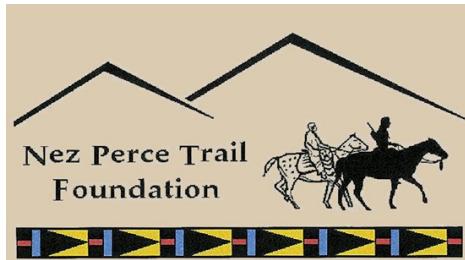
There are links to a number of webcams from the NPNHT website.

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



The Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) is currently working with the NPNHT Administrator to assist in our taking over the Annual Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) poster project. A draft poster was presented at the NPTF board meeting in Spalding ID, in late October.

This past summer Dick Seymour worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation and NPNHT Administrator Sandra Broncheau-McFarland to install 10 new NPNHT Auto Tour signs to help guide visitors through northeast Oregon. (photo right).



Summer Educational Trail Tour Report

Tamkaliks: A peculiar word to most, but a beloved word to those who make the annual pilgrimage to the Wallowa Valley in northeast Oregon and the Nez Perce homelands.

Each year, the NPTF begins its yearly Summer Educational Trail Tour from this location. While learning the history and story of the Nez Perce War of 1877, the world can witness the gathering of nations that come here to celebrate friendship and the return of the Nez Perce people.

This year, the Trail Tour lasted two weeks. The NPTF guided the first segment from Wallowa, OR, to Yellowstone National Park, (YNP) WY. The second segment departed YNP a week later, and traveled north to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT. Those students and teachers that participated in both segments gained a huge perspective on the history, length, hardship, endurance, and futility required to complete such a task.



Professor Wayne Olts at Baronette's Bridge, Yellowstone River
Summer Educational Tour 2016.

Photo Courtesy of Karen Heagen, NPTF

Also of significance during Tamkaliks was the awarding of two NPTF \$500 scholarships to deserving students of Native American descent. Through social media channels, we were able to reach more applicants and potential winners than ever before. Next year promises to be even more successful. The NPTF also served as the fundraiser for the "Women of the Warriors" Tote Bags, given to each descendant of a participant in the War of 1877.

Unfortunately, only one participant was bold, persistent, and brave enough to pursue the rest of the Trail on the second part of the tour. Wayne Olts, Professor of Anthropology at Folsom College, was my student for the next week. This actually afforded me the ability to visit sites that were not on the regularly scheduled tour. I much appreciated his presence and devotion to complete the entire journey. If not for his ability to share his experience with hundreds of his college students, I may have cancelled the remaining segment. Fortunately, his presence allowed me to visit the more remote sites on the Trail, and presented him with innumerable photo-journalistic opportunities and knowledge. He is planning an exhibition at UCLA in January 2017.

Since we were in the vicinity and had the opportunity, Wayne and I ventured further on to Cree Crossing, about an hour northeast of the Battlefield, it was just one of the locations that some of the bands had used to cross the Milk River on their way to Canada. And so our official journey ended, almost at the border of Canada and the U.S.

I traveled the route home through the Sun River valley near Great Falls and made a brief stop at Ft. Shaw. The fort's remnants housed many of the prominent officers of the Nez Perce War and their troops. Wayne completed his pilgrimage by heading north and visiting Joseph's grave at Nespelem and the Nez Perce Museum there. Until next year.

Karen Heagen, Secretary, Nez Perce Trail Foundation



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

There are new hours at the Nez Perce National Historical Park Visitor Center. Effective from Labor Day (September 5) to the day before Memorial Day (May 28) the visitor center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. PST/PDT.

This summer maintenance and Youth Conservation Corps staff updated and transformed the Spalding Picnic Area Public Restrooms (*photo right*). Through the effort of our dedicated staff the facility has a new cedar shingle roof, stainless steel sinks, energy efficient fixtures, and flooring. We appreciated the patience of our visitors as the facility was being renovated. There were also projects that automated the irrigation and updated the sprinkler systems at the visitor center, picnic, and Spalding Cemetery areas. These changes provide more efficient and environmentally friendly methods of watering the grass. The impacts of these changes will clearly be seen next summer.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

In September a patch of ground near the visitor center was changed into a Pollinator Garden by park resource staff and volunteers. On a brisk Saturday, well over 350 native plants that are known to attract pollinators were planted. This was the first of several projects at the visitor center that are designed to change the landscape into a more natural environment. (*photo left*)

The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree made a stop at the Spalding Visitor Center on Thursday, November 10, from 10 a.m. to Noon PST. The tree is from Payette National Forest near McCall and will arrive in Washington, D.C. in December. The stop at Spalding will include the Idaho Potato Truck, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, and guest speakers. The event is free and we encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities.

In December the park will host the 20th Annual Bead Bazaar on Saturday, December 3. This annual event has always proven to be very popular with the local community and visitors alike. There will be a number of local artists that will showcase a wide variety of traditional art forms such as beadwork and weaving as well as contemporary art like painting. Don't miss out on this opportunity to get some unique holiday gifts. The event is free and will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST at the Spalding Visitor Center.

There is a new face at Spalding. Paul Lockhart was hired this past June as a Maintenance Mechanic. He is a new National Park Service employee that comes to us from the Lewiston Fish and Game Department. Paul is originally from Bonners Ferry, ID, and is a veteran of the US Army. He is married and has two boys.

Brett Spaulding
Supervisory Park Ranger
Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

As the landscape around us continues to morph and change this time of year, those changes are also reflected in the staffing at Big Hole National Battlefield (NB) and Bear Paw Battlefield. We are thrilled to announce that we have filled both of our Lead Rangers positions for both parks. Rebekah Jones, coming to us from Lake Clark, AK, will be the new Lead Park Ranger at Big Hole NB and Casey Overturf, previously stationed at Mount Rainier, will be the new Lead Ranger at Bear Paw Battlefield. They are both featured in the "New Faces Along the Trail" section of this report, so I will not go into great detail about them, other than to say that we are honored that they have joined our team.

This past summer was a busy one for the park. At the Visitor Center both visitation and sales were up. In August, we had our annual commemoration at Big Hole and celebrated founders day with a special guest speaker Otis Halfmoon. Otis, as always, opened his heart to everyone who attended and his words were truly unforgettable. The Bear Paw commemoration in October was well attended, and for the first time in many years, it did not rain or snow during the ceremony. (photo right)

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, Big Hole National Battlefield began its winter schedule. The visitor center is open and free to the public seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. MST. The Battlefield will be closed for all Federal Holidays.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

The facility management crew has also been tirelessly overseeing many different projects this year including: enhancing the grade on the *nimí·pu·* camp trail for accessibility, repairing fence on the north (photo left) and south boundaries of the park, building a new horse corral to accommodate *nimí·pu·* horses during the commemoration, and removing hazardous beetle kill trees out of the siege area.

As we look forward, we want to send out a friendly reminder for those looking for seasonal positions at Nez Perce NHP, Big Hole NB, and Bear Paw Battlefield. We will be announcing those through USAJobs.gov, so keep an eye out for them.

Last but not least we would like to extend a special shout out to the following:

Friends of Bear Paw, Big Hole and Canyon Creek for donating a new bench to the park. This bench will replace a wood one that had fallen into disrepair. We will post pictures once we have it in place on site. Thanks again for always seeking ways to support our parks.

Miss Violet R., who at the ripe old age of 8, was our youngest VIP at the park this year. Thanks for all your help, Violet, and we cannot wait to see what an incredible steward you are going to be for NPS.

qe'ciyéw'yew (thank you),

Mandi Wick
Superintendent / Montana Unit Manager
?ickumcilé·likpe (Big Hole National Battlefield)



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service





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 and U.S. Highway 12 drainage managed by the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. During the 2016 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 trail 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. Weed treatments were prioritized based off of a 2012 NPNHT funded weed inventory. Subsequent weed treatments and monitoring were conducted in 2013, 2014, and 2015. 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.



During the field season maintenance was provided on 180 NPNHT markers and travel management signs. This included replacing a number of markers. (photo right)



U.S. Forest Service photo

NPNHT Trail Maintenance: The NPNHT Ranger along with assistance from the Missoula trail crew cleared a total of 531 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. The Trail was concurrently monitored for illegal motorized use throughout the season. No motorized trespass was observed.



Above: Before clearing
Below: After crew has cleared the trail

- Removed an abandoned camper that had been illegally dumped on the forest
- Maintained dispersed campsites along E. Fork Lolo Cr., Howard Creek, and Granite Creek, and provided NPNHT interpretive information to visitors
- Replaced/repaired multiple travel management and road signs
- Located, cleaned up, and installed a Travel Management sign at an illegal dispersed camp with off-road driving near Fort Fizzle
- Removed numerous dumpsites from the National Forest
- Brushed forest guide signs
- While driving on patrol, the Ranger located, reported, provided initial attack, and secured the scene of the West Fork Butte Fire

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



U.S. Forest Service photo

NPNHT Ranger greets a visitor at Fort Fizzle.





News From the Forest Service: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – 2016 Accomplishments

This year the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) received \$17,000 for trail and site maintenance. A total of \$13,300 was received from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) administration, and \$10,000 from the Pacific NW Regional Office.

Trail and site maintenance now includes:

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (#1727)
Indian Grove Village Trail and Interpretive Site
Buckhorn Ridge trails- Corral Creek (#1698) and Tolley Creek (#1724)

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

The crews completed annual maintenance on 3.36 miles of trail. The trail was logged out, 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: two. Structures constructed: four.



U.S. Forest Service photo



U.S. Forest Service photo

Indian Village Grove Trail and Interpretive Site

Work completed this year on the 0.3 miles trail at the site included annual trail maintenance of logging out, trailside brushing, weedeating the grass to enhance the trail location. The trail cairns were also rebuilt at the loop junction, and waterbars placed in steeper sections. Structures maintained: one. Structures constructed: three.

Corral Creek Trail #1698

Trail work on the 4.8 miles of Corral Creek this season focused on removing down logs and over-grown brush, scattering debris and rocks, clearing around trail markers, and re-establishing tread disrupted from animal use. At the upper section rock cairns were repaired, and re-marked with NPNHT trail markers to create a clear route. Log-out in the upper portions of the trail was significant this season due to severe wind storms over the previous winter.

Structures maintained: three. Structures constructed: four.

Tolley Creek Trail #1724

Due to the heavy animal use and brush growth, the work this year targeted these maintenance issues. Chainsaw and hand tools were used to remove the trailside brush, and route markers were re-established. The 'braided' trail tread was restored back to original location, and drainage restored on the 4.0 miles of trail. Structures maintained: none. Structures constructed: four.

Dan Ermovick
Forest Recreation Program Manager



U.S. Forest Service photo

New Faces Along the Trail:

Jones Joins Team at Big Hole National Battlefield

Rebekah Jones joined the staff at the Big Hole National Battlefield in October as the Lead Interpretive Park Ranger. With nearly 12 years of experience, Rebekah has worked at the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Organ Pipe Cactus, Lake Mead, Denali, Lake Clark, and even gave the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uniform a try during her stint at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

She has spent her career talkin' story, sharing adventure, chasing bears, setting up tents, picking up trash, posting on social media, creating brochures, and perfecting park web pages in order to create opportunities for virtual and actual visitors to fall in love with their parks. She looks forward to wearing the green and gray each morning because there is always something new to learn and to share in service of our great nation.

As a life-long country girl, Rebekah looks forward to life in the Big Hole Valley where stars shine bright, mountains stand tall, the only traffic jams involve hooved neighbors, and every meal begins and ends with chocolate. When she's not rangering, Rebekah is likely to be hiking, camping, cross country skiing, gardening, reading, or playing with her dog.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Overturf New Bear Paw Battlefield Ranger



Casey Overturf arrived to Bear Paw Battlefield in late September as the new permanent ranger, just in time for the annual Nez Perce commemoration on October 1.

“That was an experience unlike any other. I’ve always been driven by an idealistic passion for our mission but the commemoration just reinforced how special the places we protect are and how important the people are we serve,” said Overturf.

Overturf’s previous experience includes nearly seven years as a Park Guide and alternately lead interpreter at Mount Rainier National Park. Prior to that Overturf worked with Arkansas State Parks as an interpreter and the U.S. Forest Service doing trail work and Wilderness Surveys.

“While I might be one ranger in what some call a remote location, but I know the community we serve and the partners we work with could numbers in the thousands if not millions. Thank you for welcoming me into the family.”

Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

October 11 at the Bear Paw Battlefield after our first snow of the year.



How to Contact Us:

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Administration
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, Idaho 83544
(208) 476-8334
smcfarland01@fs.fed.us

Nez Perce National Historic Trail Public Affairs
Building 26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 329-3540
jmpeterson@fs.fed.us

CP Revision Coordinator
(406) 826-4352
jmolzahn@fs.fed.us

General e-mail: npnht@fs.fed.us
CP Revision e-mail: npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us
Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/npnht>



www.fs.usda.gov/nphnt

Fall Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Bitterroot River near Darby, MT.

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



October sunrise near the Bear Paw

Battlefield, Chinook, MT.

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Bitterroot River at Fort

Missoula, Missoula, MT.

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Early November frost near Nez Perce

Ford, Yellowstone National Park, WY.

National Park Service photo



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