

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

## Progress Report

Summer 2019

### Administrator's Corner



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, speaking to the Chief Joseph Trail Riders.

At the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) program, we work through partnerships that seek to create communication and collaboration across jurisdictional and cultural boundaries. Our ethic of working together reinforces community bonds, strengthens our Trail social fabric, and fosters community prosperity. By building stronger relationships and reaching out to underserved communities, who may have not historically had a voice in the management, interpretation of the Trail, we can more effectively steward our trail through honoring all the communities we serve.

Volunteer labor isn't perfect sometimes. Construction projects can take longer than necessary, but there are so many intangible benefits of volunteering- the friendships, the cross-cultural learning, and the life changes it inspires in volunteers who hopefully shift how they live, travel,

and give in the future. Learning how to serve and teaching others the rest of our lives by how we live is the biggest impact. Volunteering is simply the act of giving your time for free and so much more. In an always on and interconnected world, one of the hardest things to find is a place to unwind. Our brains and our bodies would like us to take things a lot slower," says Victoria Ward, author of "The Bucket List: Places to find Peace and Quiet." This is the perfect time to stop and appreciate the amazing things happening around you.

**Road trip** noun: definition of a *road trip*

- an interesting way to get from one place to another
- a journey, travel that prioritizes experience and observation over arriving at a destination
- a state of mind

There's a lot more work we have to do in telling our story." The NPNHT and Auto Tour Routes have a rich cultural heritage, heritage that deserves protection and on-going documentation. We are looking for partners to help us build a database of cultural assets linked to the trail. We are also in need of inventorying all interpretation along the Trail and Auto Tour (AT) to update our database.

With your kindness, you'll help us support more worthy projects like the ones I've just described. Your friendship will make a big difference to the NPNHT we're honored to administer.

Our communities continue to reflect the generosity and genuine care. We hope to continue to see this continue this year. We want to express to each of you how much we appreciate your enthusiasm and support. It's all because YOU support the Trail and the associated Auto Tour Route. Thank you!

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is a progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford*

*Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,*  
Administrator, NPNHT



Forest  
Service



Nez Perce  
National Historic Trail

August  
2019

# NPNHT Launches Agents of Discovery App Missions Connecting Youth with History

June marked National Get Outdoors Day, and the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and its partners launched new Agents of Discovery App Mission sites in the Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana, just south of Missoula, MT.

Geared toward 4th grade age youth and older, but fun for all ages, Agents of Discovery is an educational mobile gaming platform that uses augmented reality to motivate youth and their families to get outdoors, moving, and learning.

The Bitterroot Valley will have four Mission sites, with fun companion “Agents” at each Mission site—Agent Mallard at Lake Como in Darby, Agent It’sYeYe at River Park in Hamilton, Agent Tomaso at St. Mary’s Mission in Stevensville, and Agent Seaman at Travelers’ Rest State Park in Lolo. For each Mission completed, users can earn an award and enter to win prizes.

The game offers site-specific challenges that educate users about the unique environment that surrounds them. Agents are given a mission that is individual to each site, and, using the geo-location on their phones, are guided through a series of challenges, questions, and learning activities that reveal what is special about that location.

Missions (games) are free to download and play, and once downloaded do not require Wi-Fi or a data connection to function. All Mission sites in the Bitterroot have network connectivity except Lake Como; it is, however, best to download the app from iTunes or Google Play on a high speed connection before heading out for adventure.

“It was a huge team effort, we are delighted with the results, and we expect to see additional missions developed in the future,” said Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT. “The Trail has embraced technology and is eager to offer engaging and powerful learning experiences to visitors of all ages as they explore their National Forests. We are especially grateful to all of our partners who helped make this possible.”

Kris Komar of the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust said the initiative to bring Agents of Discovery to the Bitterroot was a partnership between the trust, the Bitterroot Forest, Travelers’ Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, Historic St. Mary’s Mission, and the Ravalli County Museum.

“Each mission was a team effort and we all learned so much building them out,” Komar said.

Bitterroot Forest Archaeologist Matt Werle said Lake Como was an obvious choice in the Bitterroot.

“There are so many people who use this area,” Werle said. “It has so many features that people go right by without even noticing.”



NPNHT Agent: Agent It'sYeYe

Werle worked with other Bitterroot Forest specialists to develop the course that included stops at the dam, Glacial Lake Missoula’s monument, a cambium peeled Ponderosa tree, Wood’s Cabin, and a nearby wetlands. The challenge includes a chance to take a virtual cast out onto the lake and maybe catch a virtual trout along the way.

When the young players complete their challenge, they can stop at the Darby Ranger Station or the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor’s office in Hamilton to pick up a Smokey Bear commemorative pin.

Agents of Discovery in the Bitterroot Valley is made possible by support from the U.S. Forest Service—Washington Office, NPNHT, and Bitterroot National Forest. The Forest Service partnered with local Bitterroot Valley organizations to make these new Mission sites available, including Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, Travelers Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, Historic St. Mary’s Mission, and Ravalli County Museum.

Agents of Discovery offers more than 75 missions across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico, guiding young people through forests, parks, preserves, museums, and other public spaces. This platform helps them discover a new way to learn about our natural world.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT , Kris Komar, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, and Perry Backus, Ravalli Republic



## New NPNHT Exhibit Debuts at Historic Fort Missoula



Photo Courtesy of Karen Hagen NPTF

Mark your calendars for the evening Saturday, August 24, 2019, when a new Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) exhibit at Fort Missoula, MT, will officially be unveiled.

Join us at 7 p.m. at the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History (RMMMH), located at 2975 General Foster Avenue, at Fort Missoula, for a special presentation by Nez Perce Trail Foundation President, Jim Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman will portray 1st Lt. Charles Erskine Scott (C.E.S) Wood. C.E.S. Wood served as the Aid De Camp to U.S. Army General Oliver Otis Howard during the 1877 war and flight and transcribed Chief Joseph's now famous speech (*photo left*). He will be joined by a group of Frontier Army reenactors from the U.S. 1st Volunteers. Following the presentations visitors are invited to visit the Powder Magazine and view the exhibit, located approximately half a block south of the RMMMH.

Thanks to a Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) with the NPNHT, RMMMH now has a dedicated space in which to interpret the events of 1877. The RMMMH applied for the CCSA project funding in 2013, which covered the installation of three large exhibit panels within the magazine. Topics covered by the exhibit include the Nez Perce leadership, a map overview of the Trail, and a depiction of the horses used by the combatants of both sides, and general information about the events of 1877. RMMMH

Trustees Bill and Becky O'Donnell constructed a period military crate display to show the magazine's function, complimented by replica Nez Perce trail gear. Trustees Dennis Gordon and Hayes Otoupalik reinforced and landscaped the building foundation, which is connected to the main RMMMH complex via Eagle Scout (and now U.S. Naval Academy midshipman) Nate Jourdonnais' project trail.

In June of 1877 Captain Charles C. Rawn led Companies A and I of the U.S. 7th Infantry from Fort Shaw, MT, to Missoula, MT, carrying orders to establish a new post. Rawn and his men commenced work on a Powder Magazine along the east bank of the Bitterroot River that summer. To the west in Idaho, tensions between settlers, the Federal government and the Nez Perce tribe erupted into armed conflict. Seeking sanctuary for their people, the "non-treaty" Nez Perce led between 750-800 people across the Lolo Trail into western Montana, pursued by U.S. Gen. Oliver O. Howard's troops.

In late July of 1877 Rawn led his command from Fort Missoula to a point several miles up the Lolo Canyon drainage. Under orders to delay the Nez Perce until Howard could intercept the bands from the west. After several days the Nez Perce peacefully outflanked Rawn during the "Fort Fizzle" incident and moved south through the Bitterroot Valley. Rawn returned with his companies to Fort Missoula where he resumed construction.

In early August a larger contingent from the 7th Infantry under the notable Civil War commander Col. John Gibbon arrived at Fort Missoula from Fort Shaw where it was reinforced by Rawn's men. This combined command marched through the Bitterroot and across the Continental Divide, then attacked the Nez Perce at the Battle of the Big Hole on August 9, 1877. At first successful in occupying the Nez Perce camp, Gibbon was then forced back by counterattacks into a defensive siege. Gibbon, Rawn, and other 7th Infantry soldiers held out until relieved on August 11 by Howard. The Army and accompanying citizen volunteers incurred 30 casualties during the battle, including Lt. William A. English of Company I. Between 60 and 90 Nez Perce men, women, and children were killed during the battle. *Continued on page 4*



Door opening on new NPNHT exhibit

U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson



Now lead by Chief Lean Elk "Poker Joe" the Nez Perce continued their flight toward Canadian asylum until early fall when, with snow falling, near the Bears Paw Mountains in north central Montana, they were intercepted and besieged by Gen. Nelson Miles and his troops from Fort Keogh. On October 5, Chief Joseph met with Miles and the fighting stopped. Nearly 300 Nez Perce did slip through the lines at the Bears Paw Battle and made their way north to Canada.

After the Big Hole battle, Rawn's men returned to Fort Missoula and resumed construction of the Powder Magazine. At this point foundation work may have commenced. The U.S. 3rd Infantry (which today guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, VA) relieved the 7th at Fort Missoula in November 1877.

Construction of the Powder Magazine was completed in 1878 during a time when troops from Fort Missoula again clashed with a number of Nez Perce who were returning to Idaho from Canada.

Built at a cost of \$485, the magazine's walls were constructed of limestone quarried at McCauley's Bluff, located just west of the magazine, and reinforced with ceiling and floor sand as additional insurance against explosions. The magazine continued to hold military munitions throughout the Fort's military period; during the 1890's championship marksman Sgt. Horace Bivjns of the African-American 25th Infantry inscribed his name and the serial number of his rifle on the door. Concrete paw prints on the steps were left by the 4th Infantry mascot dog "Sgt. Bozo" during the 1930's, and after the building's final use for ammunition storage in the 1960's it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Along with the "New Post" area, the magazine was transferred to the Northern Rockies Heritage Center in the late 1990's, and it is today administered by the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History ([RMMMH](http://www.rmmmh.org)).

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT and Tate Jones, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson

Fort Missoula Powder Magazine

## Fort Vancouver to Host Nez Perce Artist

Kevin Peters: *Redefining Past and Present*, a new exhibit featuring Nez Perce artist Kevin Peters, will open at the visitor center for the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, in Vancouver, WA, on August 17, 2019, at 2 p.m. (PDT). The exhibit opening will be accompanied by a talk by the artist and a tipi raising program presented by national park rangers and curators from Nez Perce National Historical Park.

Kevin will deliver a presentation on his artwork and its cultural significance. Visitors will assist Nez Perce National Historical Park curators and rangers in the raising of a tipi painted by Kevin Peters. Visitors will learn about the parts, uses, and historical evolution of the tipi, and the Indigenous cultures of the Columbia Plateau.

"The Nez Perce people have a long and complex connection to this site, from trade and kinship to, sadly, war and incarceration," said Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Superintendent Tracy Fortmann. "We are so pleased to feature Kevin Peters as our next guest artist, and highlight tradition, resiliency, and creativity. We are also pleased to welcome our colleagues from Nez Perce National Historical Park, showcasing that unique unit of the National Park System." The exhibit will be on view



Image Courtesy of the National Park Service

Walks Softly and Carries One Large Hatchet by Kevin Peters



# Wallowa Band Nez Perce Interpretive Center Opens



Photo Courtesy of Angela Bombaci Wallowa Band Nez Perce Interpretive Center

It's a dream that has taken years to come true. On Saturday, May 25, the long-planned Wallowa Band Nez Perce Visitor's Interpretive Center became an impressive reality. Its contents were developed and vetted by the Wallowa Band Nez Perce. The Center's new exhibits were fabricated locally. The exhibit is part of the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Homeland Project in Wallowa.

"I'm just thrilled by everything that's here," said Wallowa Band descendant Celeste (CeCe) Whitewolf. "It's accurate. It's professional. It helps tell our whole story, and it's a way we can share our story as people who are living today with the community and with everyone."

The new, approximately 1000-square-foot facility documents the people and culture of Chief Joseph's band, the Walwáama, who lived in the Wallowa Valley. It recounts the stories of their lives prior to their tragic 1877 flight toward Canada, their imprisonment in Kansas and Oklahoma, their return to the Northwest, and their lives today. Numerous maps and images

show the path of their April-October trek from Wallowa County through Yellowstone to capture near the Bears Paw Mountains in Montana. Names of many Nez Perce on the retreat, including a long list of women warriors, are posted alongside the map (which highlights the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, *photo left*).

The exhibit also tells the story of Chief Joseph and his band's years of imprisonment and loss at the Quapaw Reservation in Kansas and Tonkawa Reservation in Oklahoma. It documents their return to the Northwest, and exile of Chief Joseph and most of his band to the Colville Reservation in northern Washington. Today, the Wallowa band's descendants are spread across the Lapwai, Umatilla, and Colville Reservations. At the new center you can learn about their lives today as well as in the past.

The center includes historical artifacts and reproductions, a teepee that kids delight in, and a "please touch me" collection of materials, from feathers and cured hides to roots, important to the Nez Perce. The season cycle of foods, or "First Foods" is also featured in the exhibit. If you've ever wondered what time of year is traditional for eating Chinook salmon, or deer or Qwos, this is the place to find out!

For those who love maps and geography, there's a 3D relief map that shows the extent of the Walwáama band's lands, including Hells Canyon, the Imnaha, and the Wallowas. It shows major trails and the Nez Perce names for many places. J.R. Rymut fabricated the map and other exhibit pieces in her new studio in Enterprise, OR.

The Oregon Heritage Commission funded initial planning for the center. The generous support of many individual donors as well as grants from the Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Cultural Foundation, and Wild Horse Foundation supported remodeling and exhibit production.

The [Wallowa Band Nez Perce Visitor's Interpretive Center](#) is located at 209 East Second Street in downtown Wallowa. A short walk from the center leads to a new bridge across the Wallowa River and into the Tamkaliks grounds. The bridge was part of a Challenge Cost Share with the NPNHT. Summer hours at the new center are noon to 4 p.m. Pacific Time on weekdays. The center is looking for a few more dedicated volunteers who could help keep the facility open for visitors on weekends. For more information, call the center at 541 886-3101 or contact Angela Bombaci at [angela@wallowanezperce.org](mailto:angela@wallowanezperce.org).

By Ellen Morris Bishop Wallowa County Chieftain



Photo Courtesy of Wallowa Band Nez Perce Interpretive Center



## New Visitor Kiosk in Stevensville, MT, Provides NPNHT Information



Photos Courtesy of Stevensville Main Street Association

Stevensville's unique history, recreation, businesses, and attractions are showcased on a new Visitor Information Kiosk at Veterans Park in Stevensville, MT, (*photos left*) next to the Stevensville Visitor Center and Main Street Association office (102 Main Street). The grand opening and ribbon cutting occurred on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. The kiosk is located in Veterans Park and the opening coincided with Stevensville's annual Creamery Picnic festivities.

The kiosk has been nearly two years in the making, a cooperative effort between the Town of Stevensville, American Legion Post #94, Civic Club, Garden Club, Historic St. Mary's Mission, Friends of Fort Owen, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Culture Committee, Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Forest Service, Trapper Creek Job Corps, Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust, local businesses, and the Stevensville Main Street Association (SMSA), which initiated and coordinated the effort. SMSA obtained more than \$12,000 in grant funds from the Montana Department of Commerce and Rapp Family Foundation, plus contributions from local businesses and organizations, to make it possible.

According to Stevensville Main Street Association Executive Director Lorraine Roach, "The kiosk is intended to be the 'catcher's mitt' when visitors arrive in town, orient and inform them, encourage them to enjoy the many amazing things to see and do in and around Stevensville." The kiosk includes covered brochure racks so visitors can access information 24/7, and also in the Visitor Center,

which is managed by the Main Street Association.

The kiosk has eight interpretive panels, featuring Stevensville's area attractions and activities, its unique history from the Salish homeland to the present, local business and industry, events, recreation, and wildlife. "This project has been a labor of love for nearly two years, with hundreds of volunteer hours invested by project partners," stated Roach.

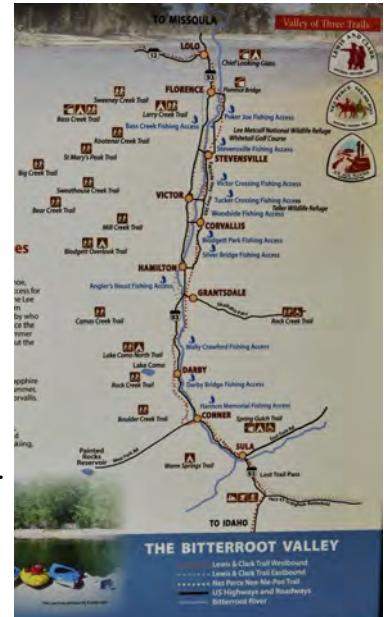
It also features information about the three National Trails that run through the Bitterroot Valley, the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo), and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails, and the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (*photo right*).

The project purpose is economic and tourism development—a way to encourage visitors to spend more time in the community. It is also a source of pride for those who live in Stevensville and appreciate the wonderful community.

During summer months the Visitor Center is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MDT (open until 7 p.m. Fridays). The Visitor Center features maps and brochures about the area, and friendly staff to assist visitors.

For more information about the kiosk project or Visitor Center, contact the Main Street Association at 406-777-3773.

Lorraine Hingston Roach, Executive Director, Stevensville Main Street Association



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson



## Be Safe in Your Travels

**The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Summer 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 [websites](#) 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.

## NPNHT Staff Travels the Trail, Meets with Partners and Shares Information



It has been an extremely busy summer for the staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The staff shared our NPNHT Traveling Exhibits with visitors at the Upper Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center in Fort Benton in May and June, and with attendees of the Central Montana Fair in Lewistown, MT, in late July. If you know someone who would like to [borrow these traveling exhibits](#) please let us know.

July found the staff traveling to meet with partners in northeast Oregon and Central Idaho. We met with partners in Joseph, Enterprise, and Wallowa, OR, including Oregon State Parks including Wallowa Lake State Park, Appaloosa Horse Club Inc.,

Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, Chief Joseph Foundation, Chambers of Commerce, Wallowa Homeland Project, and the Alvin Josephy Center. Traveling east into Idaho we met with a number of partners, including the Nez Perce and National Appaloosa horse clubs, as part of the annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride. We presented information about the NPNHT to several hundred participants of the Ride.

Staff also participated in the annual Nez Perce memorials at the Big Hole and White Bird battlefields.

We are busy revising several Auto Tour brochures, including a major revamp of Auto Tour 2. If you have comment and edits please send them to us soon at [npnht@fs.fed.us](mailto:npnht@fs.fed.us).

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

### UPCOMING Events:



August 10, 2019 — Big Hole Battle Memorial, Wisdom, MT (program begins at 10 a.m. MDT)

August 8-11, 2019 — Omak Stampede and Indian Encampment, Omak, WA

August 9-11, 2019—Native Artist in Residence Jenny Williams, Lolo Pass Visitor Center

August 16–18, 2019 —Chief Looking Glass Days, Kamiah, ID

August 23-25, 2019—Artist in Residence Karen Savory, Lolo Pass Visitor Center

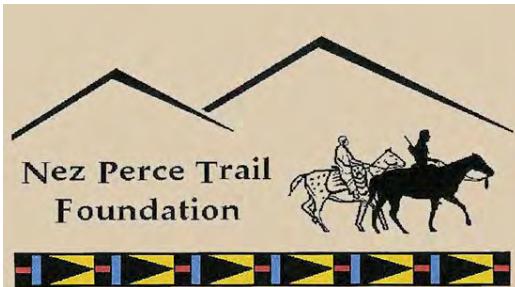
August 24, 2019—Dedication of NPNHT Exhibit at Fort Missoula, RMMMH, Presentation of CES Wood by Jim Zimmerman, NPTF

September 1-3, 2019—Artist in Residence Pearl Maxner, Lolo Pass Visitor Center

September 28, 2019 — National Public Lands Day (fees waived at National Public Lands Agencies)

October 5, 2019—Bear Paw Memorial, Chinook, MT (program begins at 10 a.m. MDT)

# News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



Greetings! The Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) has had yet another busy season involved with the commemoration of the Nez Perce Trail. Our Board of Directors continues to explore projects and potential memorial sites that will educate and inform the public about the significance of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT).

During our annual Board of Directors meeting on July 20, 2019, Jim Zimmerman was nominated and elected as President, a position he has held in the past. He is passionate about the Trail, and is most known for his excellent re-enactment of the character, Lt. C.E.S. Wood, General Howard's Aide-de-Camp. Catch his special performance

on August 24, 2019 at Ft. Missoula, see pages 3-4 of this report for more information.

Karen Heagen handed the presidential torch to Jim, and will continue on as a member of the Board of Directors and the research historian for the NPTF. The NPTF will continue to follow Heagen's implemented priorities of education and special projects.

At Tamkaliks this year, the NPTF awarded \$2,000 worth of scholarships in the effort to encourage and fund deserving college-bound Native American students in the Northwest. This effort is made possible each year by Duane Heglie, family, and friends who have contributed funds for the past 15 years!

At Tamkaliks, the NPTF also provided the commemorative "Women of the Warriors" tote bags. Each red bag is filled with symbolic herbs, offerings, and traditional gifts that are given to the descendants of women that were involved in the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. The program, originated and presented by CeCe Whitewolf, recognizes the Nez Perce women's bravery, courage, and survival during incomprehensible conditions during the war. They truly were heroes along with the warriors, protecting and caring for the elders, children, sick, and wounded. (Photo right: L-R: CeCe Whitewolf and Karen Heagen)

The Ft. Leavenworth project, spearheaded by NPTF's Matt Nowak, is now in the construction planning stage. City officials are considering the most appropriate spot for the memorial statue, acquiring grants for the project, and are eager to recognize the Nez Perce and their tragic history in the area. Our NPTF scouts have reported that little is known about the Nez Perce incarceration there by the general public. With the hopeful blessings of the Nez Perce Tribe, this long-overdue Memorial will signify the endurance and fortitude of the survivors of the War of 1877.

On yet another stage in the Northwest, Karen Heagen will be exploring the route taken by Chief Joseph and those that chose to follow him to Nespelem on the Colville Reservation. The important division occurred at Wallula, WA, where the Nez Perce returning from exile were given a choice either to return to the Lapwai reservation or continue north with Chief Joseph.



Exploring the old railroad routes and historical societies along the way, Heagen hopes to acquire the details of their final journey from Indian Territory. The NPTF eventually would like to construct a memorial roadside plaque at Wallula and Riparia that explains the history of this final chapter.

The 2019 Summer Educational Trail Tour began at Wallowa this year, in conjunction with the Tamkaliks Celebration and Friendship Feast. Many enrollees were repeat Trail Tour participants wishing to enrich their previous knowledge and have yet another Trail experience. Those first-timers left with a great appreciation of the NPTF, and their newly acquired historical knowledge of "Segment 1" (from Wallowa, OR, to Big Hole, MT, photo above). The NPTF continues to forge ahead regardless of government budget cuts and a discontinuation of funding. The Trail Tour provides a much needed operational fund basis each year, although most NPTF efforts remain voluntary.

Best wishes, and thank you to all of our partners that are committed to supporting the efforts of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.



Photo Courtesy of Karen Hagen NPTF



Photo Courtesy of Karen Hagen NPTF

Professor Wayne Oltz, John Hansen, and Duane Heglie explore an historic site along the Trail.

Karen Heagen, Past President, NPTF



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

Spring 2019 at Nez Perce National Historical Park was egg-ceptional! The Park's Junior Ranger Day Egg Hunt, which took place in April, taught kids about egg-laying animals and what to do if they find eggs outdoors. More than 200 people attended the event and kids who completed all of the activities pledged to 'Explore, Learn, and Protect' as Official Junior Rangers.

Culture Day is a celebration and appreciation of the Nez Perce culture. The May event was packed full of programs and activities including a horse parade, pow wow, and coyote story time. More than 300 visitors explored tipis, watched demonstrations, and shared in Nez Perce culture. Be sure to come out to next year's Culture Day event.

The Park conducted its 12th year of camas monitoring this spring. Sixty students from three high schools helped natural resource staff count camas flowers and plants at Weippe Prairie.

Nez Perce National Historical Park is thrilled to have another season of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) workers as well as Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) interns who join our maintenance staff for the summer. Through these programs the park provides job experience to youth and young adults in multiple fields. The Park's museum collections staff is also hosting a summer intern via the National Council for Preservation Education program.

The Park maintenance crew has begun a project to repair the retaining wall at Heart of the Monster. This project will dismantle rotting pressure-treated timbers bordering the walking path to the interpretive shelter overlook and around the site's picnic area, which were installed by the park in the 1980s. Park staff will rebuild the wall.

In late May, a high wind event blew down numerous large trees on the Heart of the Monster Trail. The trail was damaged and temporarily closed until Park staff, in collaboration with Jonathan Rich Tree Care, Idaho Stage Construction, and Herco Inc. Asphalt, removed the hazardous trees and repaired the trail.



Students observe a tipi raising.

The Park's summer series is in full swing. Demonstrations and speakers are scheduled almost every Saturday June through August in the visitor center. Past events include moccasin and traditional drum making demonstrations. Don't miss out on your chance to attend upcoming events including a beadwork demonstration (8/3, 17), butterfly talk (8/10), and night sky program (8/10). Stop by the visitor center and pick up a free magnet with our summer event schedule.

In addition to summer programs in the Spalding Visitor Center, Park rangers from Nez Perce National Historical Park and Whitman Mission National Historic Site are excited to provide evening programs at Wallowa State Park every Thursday and a Junior Ranger program on Friday mornings throughout the summer.

Helping our Park Rangers provide visitors with information about the Park and Nez Perce Culture is our new visitor center volunteer Jeremy. Other volunteers helping our Park staff include Reanna the Park's pollinator garden volunteer, The White Bird Library volunteers, the youth group from Juniper Hills, and our Culture Day volunteers.

Kelly Kincaid. Administrative Assistant, Nez Perce National Historical Park





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

Summer may be slow in coming to the Battlefield this year, but nothing else about the season has been.

May brought in new faces and continued traditions. Joining the Park was our interpretation seasonal help, (*photo right*) L-R: Colin Thompson, Suzy Avey, George Gehrig, and Joey Wohl. They assisted with our tenth annual Coyote Camp that took place May 20 – 24, 2019. The Park hosted more than 900 students from all over the area, including schools as far away as Fortine, MT.

In June, the renowned Junior Ranger Aida Frey visited the Park. We also had the resource team from Nez Perce NHP and Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN) Inventory and Monitoring crew here to monitor the lemhi penstemon.

At the end of June, we began both our summer programming, as well as our Summer Speaker Series.

For summer programming the park is offering tours and deck talks Friday thru Monday. The battlefield tour starts from the lower parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and ends at Noon MDT. The 30 minute deck talks take place on our viewing deck at the visitor center and can be seen at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. MDT. These programs will continue to run Friday through Monday until Labor Day.

On June 29, 2019, our Summer Speaker Series began with demonstrators providing programs each weekend at Noon and 3 p.m. They will continue every Saturday and Sunday for the next eight weekends. For the full listing of speakers, go to our web site at [www.nps.gov/biho](http://www.nps.gov/biho).



Our facility maintenance crew has also had a busy season. They brought on two seasonal maintenance workers, (*photo left*) Adam Quinn (not pictured) and Giovanni Dugi (pictured left), as well as one Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) employee, Tate Raymond (pictured right). They have been busy with daily operations, including custodial and grounds care along with a hefty list of deferred maintenance backlog projects. These include: replacing propane tank monitoring domes, preparing and painting the Parks storage sheds replacing a deteriorating fence near the visitor center, replacing the roof on the equipment storage shed and sign maintenance.

Other projects completed within the Park include replacement of windows in the housing units, replacement and repair of sewer system piping, replacement of water shut-off valves to the parks essential housing units, and upgrading fire suppression systems throughout the park facilities.

The Park maintenance division looks forward to working with our partners, the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). The crews will continue to work on hazard tree removal and help repair and replace replica tipi frames in the Nez Perce encampment area. They will also assist in repairing and replacing sections of the Park's boundary fencing.

The maintenance division is also planning for future infrastructure projects including water and wastewater system upgrades, road repair projects, and trails rehabilitation.

This coming weekend the annual Nez Perce Tribe's commemoration will take place on Saturday, August 10, 2019, beginning at 10 a.m. MDT. Following the commemoration Michael Penney and Nez Perce Nation Drum will present Drum and Song at 2:30 p.m. at the Visitor Center and again at 7 p.m. at May Creek Campground just west of the visitor center.

To help get us through these busy months we also had some wonderful volunteers who helped cover the Visitor Center desk; heartfelt thanks go out to Terry O'Halloran, Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas, Larry Mink, and Maria Falbo.

With so much going on we look forward to everyone stopping by and checking it out!

Leslie Lula, Park Guide , Big Hole National Battlefield





# News From the Forest Service

## Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

### New Forest Service Project Pairs Modern Technology with Backcountry Experiences and Features the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests has installed the first digital kiosks, known as Electronic Tour Sites, associated with the Forests' new Historic Routes Project. This initiative highlights the significant history and recreational opportunities available on three historic routes on the Forests. At these kiosks, Forest visitors can download a variety of multimedia content onto their personal mobile devices in remote locations where there is no Wi-Fi or network connectivity. Visitors can then enjoy this content on their personal devices for the rest of their visit to the forests, whether there is cell phone service or not. The first two kiosks were installed at Lolo Pass Visitor Center, located off of U.S. Highway 12 at the Idaho/Montana state line, and Lochsa Lodge, located in Powell just west of Lolo Pass.

Acting Kootenai National Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert, who normally serves as the Forest Supervisor for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, has taken great pride in the development of the Historic Routes Project. "I am really excited for the opportunities this project has to bring history and human experiences alive using modern technology to introduce Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests visitors to the rich history of travelways that have been connecting communities for millennia," she said.

The new Electronic Tour Sites look much like traditional Forest Service interpretive kiosks, but include an on-site router that enables visitors to download interpretive content to their mobile device. Step-by-step instructions are available for visitors to connect their devices to the network, where they may download the multimedia of their choosing. Downloadable content at Electronic Tour Sites includes local historic information, photographs, maps, podcasts, videos, and brochures about the rich history of the region and nearby recreation opportunities. Content at each digital kiosk is unique and specific to its location. Once downloaded, visitors can refer to maps, watch videos, and view historic photos of the areas they are visiting as they continue their visit through the Forests.



U.S. Forest Service photo

The Historic Routes Project highlights the history and significance of the Lolo Motorway, Elk City Wagon Road, and Magruder Corridor on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. These routes follow historic trails that were used for centuries and now exist as roads following or bisecting these ancient trails. The Lolo Motorway follows both the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails. The Elk City Wagon Road and the Magruder Corridor follow the Southern Nez Perce Trail.

No mobile network connection is required to download content at digital kiosks, and visitors do not have to download an app prior to visiting the digital kiosk in order to access the content. The Wi-Fi network at Electronic Tour Sites only allows visitors to download Forest Service content. Users cannot upload content, check in to other websites, or make phone calls using the network at the digital kiosks.

"The development of this project has brought together many generations across our local communities to tell the tales of these historic motorways," Probert said. The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests worked with local historians, businesses, volunteer clubs, and others to gather stories and information for the digital kiosks. Students at the

University of Idaho assisted the Forest Service with the project by drafting grant proposals and digital content. The Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. also provided project support to help the Forest Service implement the Historic Routes Project.

Additional Electronic Tour Sites are scheduled to be installed across the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests along the historic routes and in nearby communities. Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NPClwnfs](http://www.facebook.com/NPClwnfs)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/NPClwnfs](http://www.twitter.com/NPClwnfs)), and download our mobile app (search "Nez Perce Clearwater" in your app store) for updates on the installation of future digital kiosks.

"With this project, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests hopes to contribute in a real way, both socially and economically, to our local communities," said Probert. "We hope this project encourages visitors near and far to experience the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, and the communities within and surrounding it, to learn more about the fascinating history of this area."

For more information about the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' Historic Routes Project, please contact Chrysann Jaeger, Recreation Programs Assistant, at [chrysann.jaeger@usda.gov](mailto:chrysann.jaeger@usda.gov).



U.S. Forest Service photo



# News From the Forest Service

## Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The Lolo Pass Visitor Center on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests lined up an exciting array of events for the 2019 summer season!

To kick off the start of summer and celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, Lolo Pass hosted Kate Davis and a small flock of feathered friends. Kate presides over the “Raptors of the Rockies” program, a raptor education project that focuses on providing a lifetime of quality care to permanently disabled birds of prey. Kate brought a golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and two species of owls to the program, instilling a sense of respect and admiration for these skilled hunters, and spoke about wildlife conservation and habitat preservation for wild bird populations.

2019 marks the second season for the Artist in Residence program at Lolo Pass. Many of the artists feature art about, or created by, Native American artists. In early June, the visitor center was honored to display an intricate and colorful quilt designed and created by local fiber artist Borg Hendrickson. The quilt was titled “Living the Landscape” and depicted Nez Perce women gathering camas bulbs.

In mid-June, visitors had a chance to interact with Roger Amerman while he demonstrated traditional shell embroidery and mineral paint application, working outside of a large teepee that he set up in front of the visitor center. Roger’s nationally recognized art features beautiful Native American bead and feather work.

In July, Bessie Walker (*photo right*), a student and teacher of the Nimiipuutimtki dialect on the Nez-Perce Reservation, provided entertainment for visitors of all ages. Bessie and her son

shared traditional stories of Nez-Perce tribe and taught visitors how to pronounce a few Nez Perce place names for locations along the Lochsa River corridor.

Nez-Perce tribal member, Kevin Peters (*photo left*), shared story-telling and demonstrated some black and white charcoal etchings for the public to view. Kevin is well-known across the nation for his flute carving and playing, painting, and work with raw hide.

Stay tuned for our up-coming Artists in Residence, Jenny Williams (August 9th-11th), Karen Savory (August 23rd – 25th) and Pearl Maxner (September 1st – 3rd).



for Smokey Bear’s 75th birthday celebration. Lolo Pass Visitor Center will be hosting the traveling [Smokey Portrait Tour](#) from September 16-29, 2019. Replicas of historic portraits by artist Rudolph "Rudy" Wendelin, the [original Smokey artist](#), are traveling across the country and will be making a stop at Lolo Pass. Hope to see you there!



U.S. Forest Service photo



U.S. Forest Service photo Rudy Wendelin Gallery

Anna Sivill, Acting Manager  
Lolo Pass Visitor Center  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

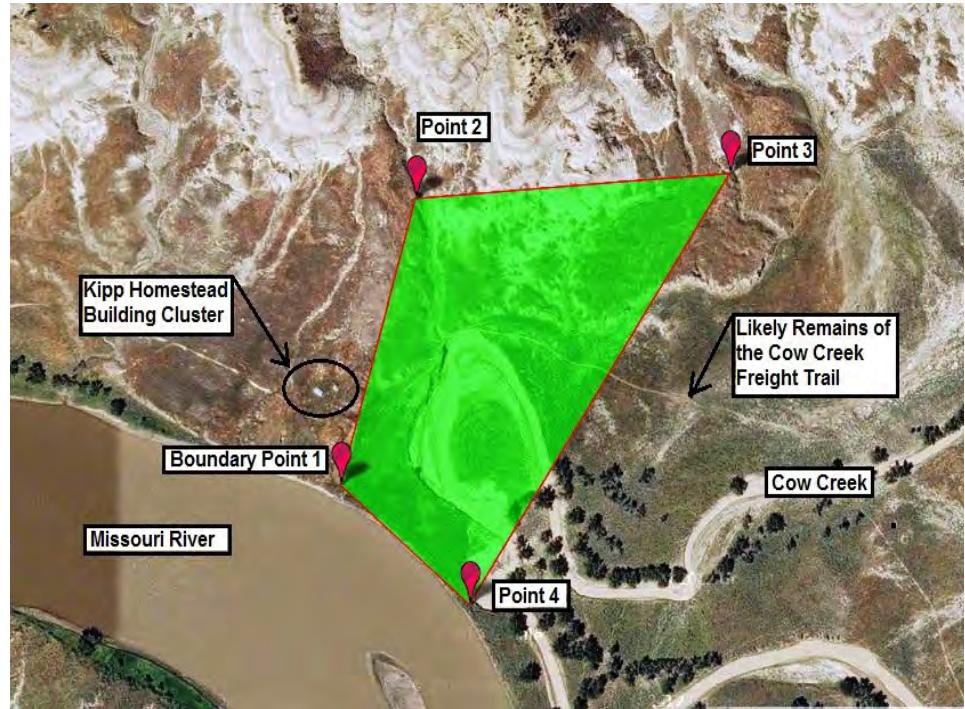
Smokey Bear artwork by Rudy Wendelin titled: *Hey Come Back - You Forgot Something.*





## News From the Bureau of Land Management: Lewistown Field Unit and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

On June 27, 2019, the Cow Island Landing Skirmish Site was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This 37-acre site lies within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, and on land owned by the American Prairie Reserve. The nomination states, in part, that the site "represents the location of a September 23-24, 1877, encounter between warriors belonging to five non-treaty Nez Perce bands and a small party of entrenched U.S. Army soldiers and civilian freight clerks during the 1877 Nez Perce War. At the time, the location served as a commercial freight depot and landing....This landing was constructed to enable overland shipping to Fort Benton during seasonal low water on the Missouri via the Cow Creek freight trail, which commenced at the landing."



Aerial Image of the Cow Island Landing Skirmish Site depicting National Register boundaries and significant site features Base Map Downloaded from Google Earth, 2012.

Today the site can be accessed from the Missouri River, as well as from a primitive road that is part of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Auto Tour Route. Travel in this area is best suited for all terrain vehicles in dry weather. Montana Preservation Alliance initiated the nomination with grant funding from the National Park Service American Battlefield Program. John Boughton of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office completed the nomination.

Cow Creek flows from the southern foothills of the Bears Paw Mountains to the Missouri River through a unique and remote area known as the Missouri Breaks, commemorated in the name of the national monument. These arid and severely eroded badlands extend out from either side of the Missouri River, forming a landscape that parallels the river for over 200 miles. In the particularly rugged Cow Creek stretch of the Missouri, the Breaks extend back from the river for several miles, limiting access to both sides of the bottom lands near the water.

The Cow Creek drainage provides one of the few routes from the Missouri River north through the Missouri Breaks. As Cow Creek flows through the Breaks, it passes between high canyon-like walls, but the stream meanders back and forth over a canyon floor that is relatively level and wide. The floor of Cow Creek canyon provided a travel corridor to the northern Montana plains from land south of the Missouri since pre-contact times. Steep trails on the south bank of the Missouri opposite Cow Creek completed the route which connected the northern Montana plains to the central and southern Montana grasslands. The pathway was used seasonally by Native American tribes for centuries, as well as migrating herds of bison and other mammals.

Cow Island, approximately one mile downstream of the skirmish site, sits outside the National Register boundaries. The island, which divides the Missouri into two channels, makes crossing the broad Missouri, over 1,100 feet wide at this point, an easier undertaking. During the steamboat era on the Missouri River, the Cow Island (or Cow Creek) Freight Trail began near the mouth of Cow Creek, where a landing and freighting depot was developed. The north end of Cow Island also features a well-known natural crossing, likely utilized by the Nez Perce to cross the river at this point on September 23, 1877. *Continued on page 14*



## News From the Bureau of Land Management: Lewistown Field Unit and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

Ten days earlier, the bands crossed the Yellowstone River and successfully staved off a cavalry attack at Canyon Creek. Following that encounter, the Nez Perce

caravan separated from the pursuing forces led by General Oliver O. Howard and Colonel Samuel Sturgis. As they passed north of today's Lewistown, MT, and entered the rugged portion of the Missouri Breaks country south of the Missouri River, Gen. Howard lost their trail. Most believed the Nez Perce would cross the Missouri at Fort Claggett, some 65 river miles west of their actual crossing location.

With the crossing of the Missouri River at Cow Island, the Nez Perce bands succeeded in placing another formidable river between themselves and the pursuing U.S. Army. As they drew within 85 miles from sanctuary in Canada, the Nez Perce no doubt felt cautiously confident in their ability to cross the border. However, unbeknownst to the bands, Colonel Nelson Miles and his forces had been dispatched from the Tongue River Cantonment, present day Miles City, MT, and were underway to intercept the Nez Perce.



Photo Courtesy of Montana Geographical Society

Cow Island Landing skirmish site. The Kipp Homestead is visible in the lower center of the image, while the location of the landing is the immediate left side of the image.

gained an abundance of supplies taken from the landing during the encounter, they lost significant travel time, perhaps most of a day. As historian Mark Brown suggested, "that [lost] day may well have represented the difference between success and bitter defeat."

The delay brought about by the skirmish at the landing allowed Miles critical time to rapidly advance on the weary Nez Perce. This played a significant role in the Army's ultimate success in capturing a large portion of the retreating Nez Perce during the war's final engagement, the Battle of the Bear Paw. As such, the skirmish at the Cow Island Landing is significant, serving as a keystone site within a large constellation of historic sites that comprise the NPNHT, Nez Perce National Historic Park, and other places important in Nez Perce culture, which together allow commemoration and interpretation of the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce War.

Zane Fullbright Upper Missouri River Breaks NM, Manager and John Boughton Montana State Historic Preservation Office



Photo Courtesy of Montana Historical Society

1880 F.J. Haynes image, depicting the U.S. Army and freight camp at the landing. The personnel photographed here were likely clerks, as well as engineers constructing the wing dam at Cow Island built between 1877 and 1880.

In a war full of momentous decisions and fateful, violent encounters, the skirmish at the landing contributed to the outcome of the war in two noteworthy ways. First, the encounter at Cow Island Landing allowed American military leaders to precisely determine the location, direction, and condition of the Nez Perce caravan. Prior to September 23, the military had lost contact with the Nez Perce caravan and many assumed the bands planned to cross the Missouri far upriver near Fort Claggett.

The clash at Cow Island Landing almost immediately resulted in the military rethinking their maneuvers. Soon after Major Guido Ilges's relief party arrived at the landing, he dispatched two scouts to find Miles (then operating near the Little Rocky Mountains) to provide him with accurate information on the tribe's whereabouts. Further, and perhaps more important, the skirmish delayed the progress of the Nez Perce during what became the critical closing phase of the conflict. While the bands

gained an abundance of supplies taken from the landing during the encounter, they lost significant travel time,

perhaps most of a day. As historian Mark Brown suggested, "that [lost] day may well have represented the difference between success and bitter defeat."



## New Faces Along the Trail: U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Announces New Deputy Regional Foresters

Regional Forester Leanne Marten recently announced that Melany Glossa and Keith Lannom have been selected as Deputy Regional Foresters for the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Region.

"Melany and Keith are dedicated public servants and proven leaders," Marten said. "We are excited to have them join us as we work together with our state, Tribal, and community partners and volunteers to enhance forest and grassland health and further economic prosperity for our communities."

Glossa (*photo right*) was formally a Deputy Regional Forester for the Eastern Region in Milwaukee, WI. She has been with the Forest Service since 2001 and has worked as a forest planner, district ranger, and forest supervisor in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Indiana, and Montana.



U.S. Forest Service photo

"This is an amazing opportunity," Glossa said. "I am looking forward to being a part of the innovation and excitement of the Northern Region as we embrace so many possibilities and work to make the Forest Service the ideal workplace for our dedicated employees."

Lannom (*photo left*) was formally the Forest Supervisor for the Payette National Forest in McCall, ID. He first joined the Forest Service in 1992 upon completion of graduate school in Mississippi. He has worked in geospatial and remote sensing technology and has served as a district ranger and forest supervisor in Tennessee, New Hampshire and Idaho.

"I am looking forward to being part of the Northern Region's leadership team, learning about its forests and grasslands, and engaging with employees," Lannom said.

U.S. Forest Service photo



## Blanchard New Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Administrator

Becky Blanchard recently accepted a permanent reassignment from the Pacific Northwest Regional Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Manager to the position to the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Administrator (PNT).

Blanchard comes to the PNT role with a strong background in congressionally designated areas management, including direct high level work on the PNT Comprehensive Plan. She will bring her excellent organizational and partnership skills to PNT administration.

Blanchard has worked for the Forest Service for six years. Her first position in the Forest Service was the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Planning and Partnerships Specialist, and she is excited to return to the PNT program as the second PNT Administrator (previously held by Matt McGrath). From 2016-2019, she was the Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Congressionally Designated Areas program manager for the Pacific Northwest Region. Prior to joining the Forest Service, Becky was a researcher and practitioner working on issues related to water, fisheries, and community-based natural resource management. She is originally from Oregon, and the Pacific Northwest is her home.



U.S. Forest Service photo



## Samantha French Named Director of the Blaine County Museum



Photo Courtesy Samantha French

Samantha French graduated from Carroll College in Helena, MT, with a BA in History in 2016. While living in Helena, she had the opportunity to serve as an intern at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office and the Montana Historical Society Museum's collections department. After completing her undergraduate education, she moved to Butte, MT, where she interned at Butte Archives. Here she assisted with the digitization of a large body of historic area photography.

In February 2019, French graduated with her Master's degree in Art History from University of Bristol in Bristol, U.K., where her area of concentration was exhibition curation. While living in Bristol, she volunteered regularly at University of Bristol's Theatre Collection archives.

French grew up in Havre, MT, and she is very pleased to be back on the Hi-Line, preserving and sharing the history of the area as director of the Blaine County Museum. She looks forward to working with the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)

National Historic Trail, and hopes to enhance the museum's exhibit relating to the 1877 war and flight and the Bears Paw battle.

## Lefler Joins Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Staff

Brye Lefler joined the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) program in the fall of 2018 as the Planning and Partnerships Specialist. His previous work has included community engagement, planning, and social science research with the U.S. Forest Service; tribal relations, cultural anthropology, and ethnobotany with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Defense; and ecological restoration on private and public lands across the western U.S.

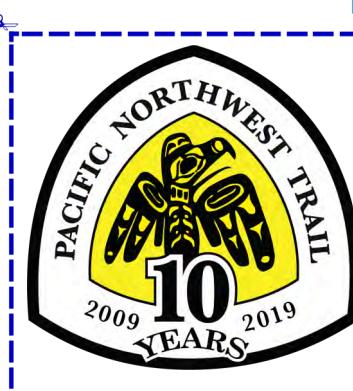


Photo Courtesy Brye Lefler



Photo Courtesy of Lou Gearing, NPNHT

Chief Joseph Trail Ride travels the NPNHT Auto Tour Route on US Highway 12 near Lowell, ID.



In 2008, the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's former Director of Trail Operations, Jon Knechtel delivered testimony before congress advocating for the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) to join the national trails system. Ultimately, he succeeded. On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, and the Pacific Northwest Trail became the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT), after decades of advocacy work by the Association. Congratulations to our friends at the PNT!



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## Summer Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Indian Post Office, Lolo Motorway.  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson



Mouth of Sleeping Child, Cr. Montana  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson



Dancer at Tamkiliks pow wow, OR.  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson



Howard Camp, Lolo Motorway, Idaho.  
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger Peterson



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