



Visitor Guide 2004

Volume 2

Welcome

Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield are special places. These National Park Service areas preserve sites related to the culture and history of the Nimiipuu or Nez Perce people.

Long before any outsiders settled the prairies and valleys of this country, the Nimiipuu were here - from the Bitterroot Range to the deep river canyons of the Salmon and Snake and beyond. The National Park Service in partnership with others has the responsibility to share the ongoing story of the Nez Perce with our visitors and the Nation.

The park encompasses the spectrum of Nimiipuu history and culture. Park sites relate to early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark expedition through the area, missionaries, gold mining and logging, and the Nez Perce War of 1877. Each site provides a glimpse into the stories and traditions of their past.

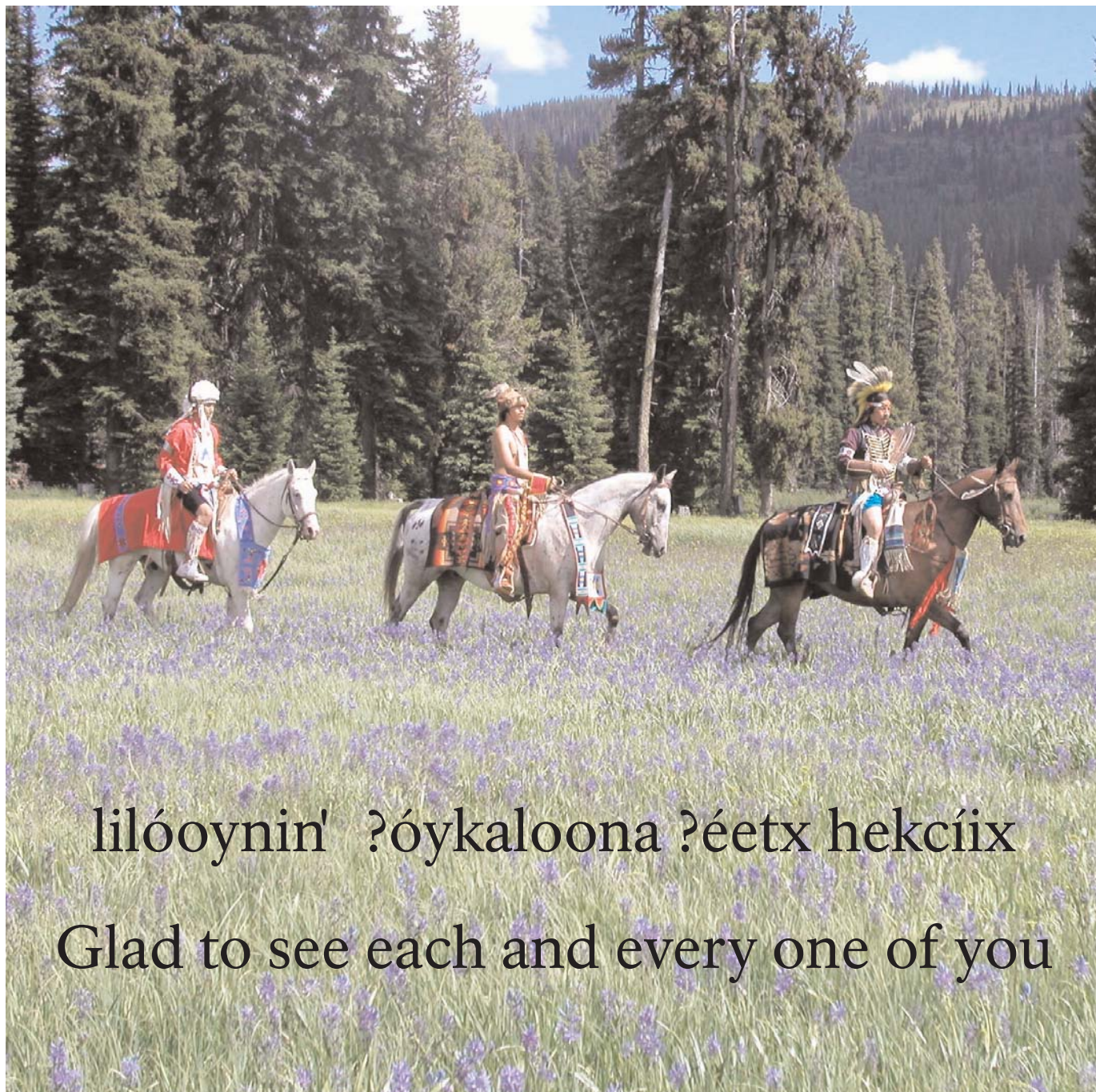
With thirty-eight sites spread across four states (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington), we hope the information provided in this newspaper will assist in making the most of your visit.

Thanks

Douglas E. Eury
Superintendent
Nez Perce National Historical Park

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Glad to see each and every one of you

Horse parades are often part of tribal ceremonies and special events. Horses and riders are bedecked in beautiful traditional finery, serving as powerful reminders of the horses' place in Nez Perce history. Horses came to Nez Perce country in the early 1700s from the south. In less than two generations the horse transformed the Nez Perce way of life, providing unprecedented mobility and becoming a symbol of power, wealth, and prestige.

The Nez Perce bred their horses for agility, strength and whatever pleased them. Unfortunately, as the reservation shrank with each successive treaty, the great horse herds declined as well. Today, the Nez Perce Tribe has invested time and resources to breed a horse, the *Nimiipuu Sik'em* that has the endurance and strength common

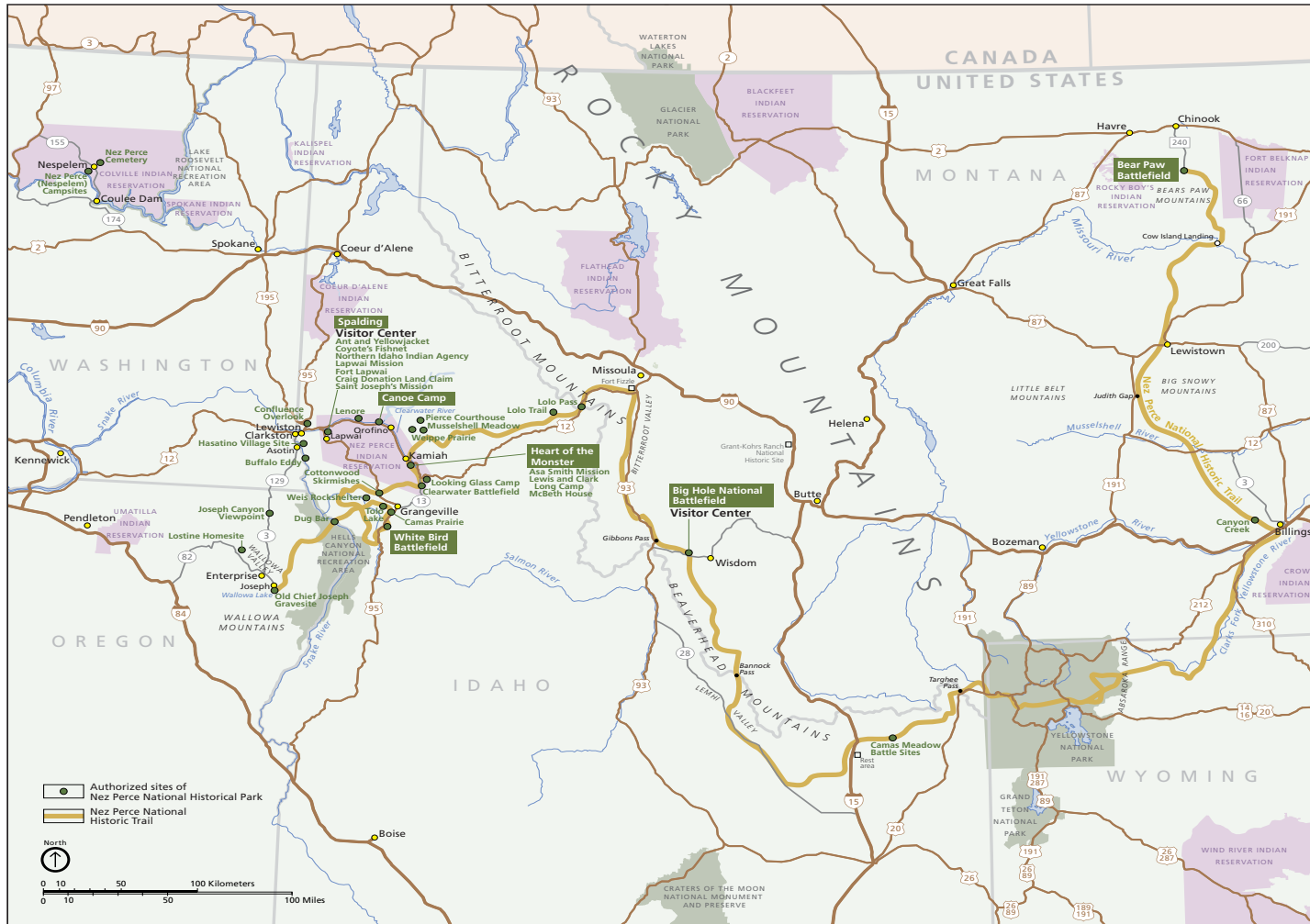
in the horses of the past. The horse breeding program has the added benefit of allowing youth to develop horse skills and reestablish the unique link between the Nez Perce and the horse. What was almost lost has come back, stronger and more meaningful than ever before.

The Nimiipuu have been in this land since time immemorial. Nez Perce National Historical Park tells the story of the Nez Perce, offering all Americans an important perspective about our history as a people. This is not a story told from the Mississippi looking west; it is a view from a homeland looking out, witnessing the march of history and change. It is a park about a people for all people.

Nez Perce National Historical Park

"The national parks must be maintained in absolutely unimpaired form for the use of future generations as well as for our own times."

Stephen J. Mather - First Director of the National Park Service



Explore the Park

Long before Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ventured west; before the English established a colony at Jamestown; before Christopher Columbus stumbled upon the 'new world', the Nez Perce lived in the prairies and river valleys of what is today north Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The thread of the past meets the future as the language, culture and traditions of the Nez Perce move forward into the twenty-first century. Join us in visiting the sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park.

IDAHO



Spalding Visitor Center

The **Visitor Center** is located in Spalding, 10 miles east of Lewiston. A museum and film provide an orientation to the park. The staff is available to answer any questions.

The stories of the people are intertwined with the land that they live in. **The Heart of the Monster** in Kamiah is a geologic feature and cultural landscape that is the basis of the stories related to the beginnings of the Nez Perce.

In 1805, after an arduous journey across the Bitterroot Mountains via **Lolo Pass and Trail**, the Lewis and Clark expedition arrived in Nez Perce country. Today, U.S. Highway 12 parallels the historic route Lewis and Clark traveled. Along the Clearwater River, at **Canoe Camp**, near Orofino, Lewis and Clark built the canoes they needed to continue their journey to the Pacific Ocean.

Following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, fur trappers and Christian missionaries came to Nez Perce country. The site of **Henry Spalding's Mission** is a short walk from the Spalding visitor center. Father Joseph Cataldo established **Saint Joseph's Mission**, 10 miles south of the visitor center. The mission established the first Roman Catholic presence in Nez Perce country.

The establishment of white settlements in Nez Perce country coincided with the Treaties of 1855 and 1863, creating the **Nez Perce Reservation**. These treaties created schisms among the people and ushered in a period of tumultuous change. During the forced relocation of Nez Perce from Oregon, the group camped at **Tolo Lake**, outside of Grangeville. Violence ensued in the surrounding settlements and in June 1877, the first battle of the war erupted at **White Bird**, outside of the present town of Whitebird, and resulted in a Nez Perce victory. In the weeks following the battle, the Army attacked the encampment of **Looking Glass**, today on the site of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery in Kooskia.



White Bird Battlefield

MONTANA

In the aftermath of the battles in Idaho, the Nez Perce were pursued by the U.S. Army as they headed east to Montana. On August 9 1877, U.S. soldiers surprised the Nez Perce encampment at Big Hole, killing between 60 to 90 men, women, and children. **Big Hole National Battlefield**, located outside of Wisdom, commemorates all those who died. A museum and



Big Hole Battlefield

film provide an introduction to the war and the battle. After escaping from Big Hole, a skirmish took place at **Camas Meadows**, a site off of Interstate 15. Warriors attacked an army encampment, delaying the

pursuit and allowing the Nez Perce to escape. As other troops joined in the chase, one of these columns skirmished with warriors at **Canyon Creek**, near Billings. In October 1877, after a 1,100 mile chase and 40 miles from Canada, the U.S. Army trapped and besieged the Nez Perce, at **Bear Paw Battlefield**, south of Chinook. Joseph ended the fighting and the war was over.

OREGON/WASHINGTON

Petroglyphs can be found along the Snake River at **Buffalo Eddy**, south of Asotin, Washington. In Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, **Dug Bar** marks the spot where the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce crossed the Snake River leaving their homeland to live on the Reservation.

Chief Joseph's ancestral home is the Wallowa valley in northeast Oregon. **Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite** is located outside of the town of Joseph at the edge of Wallowa Lake. Below the **Joseph Canyon Viewpoint** is an example of the canyon-bottomland environment where they lived in the winter. In the aftermath of the war, Chief Joseph's band was eventually sent to live on the **Colville Reservation** in central Washington. Joseph is buried on the Reservation. *The cemetery is private property and closed to the public.* There are also Nez Perce living on the **Umatilla Reservation** near Pendleton, Oregon.

Enjoying Your Visit

"The Nez Perce connection to our ancestors is great. The Land unites us with them across time, keeping our culture alive . . . We live in the place our ancestors called home before the great pyramids of Egypt were built."

Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Things You Need to Know

You are responsible for knowing the park rules and regulations that help protect the unique cultural and natural resources of Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield.

Cemeteries

Burial sites are sacred to the Nez Perce people, therefore, all visitors are expected to respect the cemeteries at Spalding, Idaho and Joseph, Oregon. Visitation is allowed, but you are asked by the Nez Perce not to stand on marked graves, take rubbings of headstones or touch memorial items left on graves. Eating, drinking, or any type of recreational activity within the cemeteries is considered inappropriate behavior.

Many of the battlefields are cemeteries for the men, women and children who died there and should be given the respect of a sacred burial ground.

Hiking

For your safety, please stay on designated trails.

Park sites range from 700 feet to 6,300 feet in elevation. At the higher altitudes, even hiking a moderate trail may seem strenuous to those not accustomed to the elevation.

The summer months can be especially hot. If you choose to hike, please remember to bring plenty of water and protect yourself from sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunscreen.

Pets

Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Pets are prohibited in both visitor centers and on the trails at Big Hole National Battlefield and Bear Paw battlefield.

Accommodations and Camping

There are no accommodations or campgrounds at Nez Perce National Historical Park or Big Hole National Battlefield. Please plan accordingly. The park rangers at the visitor centers can provide additional information on accommodations and camping opportunities in the region.

Driving

As you drive around park sites, please obey the posted speed limits. In congested areas please be aware of pedestrians in the roadways.

IN CASE OF AN **EMERGENCY** PLEASE DIAL **'911'**

Archeological sites, battlefields and artifacts are protected by state and federal law. Anyone who injures, destroys or appropriates artifacts or objects of antiquity on park lands are subject to arrest and prosecution to the maximum extent of the law.

Please call (208) 843-2261 in Idaho and (406) 689-3155 in Montana to report incidents

Entrance Fees

Most sites in Nez Perce National Historical Park do not require an entrance or program fee. Donations are accepted and help support the park's education and interpretive programs.

Big Hole National Battlefield **does** collect entrance fees. These fees are collected from **May 29, 2004 to September 26, 2004.**

Standard Admission

\$5.00 per vehicle

Discount Rates

Cyclist, Hiker, or Person traveling alone	\$3.00
Motorcyclists and cyclist traveling as families	\$5.00

Commercial Tours

Commercial Bus Tours	\$3.00
Senior Bus Tours	\$2.00 per person

Senior Group Rate

Senior Noncommercial Bus Tours	\$1.00 per person
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NOTE: Remember to keep your admission receipt in order to re-enter the park.

National Park Service Pass

The National Parks Pass provides a way to save money when visiting your national parks. For one annual fee of \$50.00, you can enter all National Park System areas for free. You receive a great value and you also support your favorite national parks.

To obtain your pass, either purchase one at Big Hole National Battlefield or online at www.nationalparks.org. You can also call toll free at **1-800-GO-PARKS (1-888-467-2757)**. The pass will be sent to you through the mail. Shipping and handling is \$3.95. Express mail is \$11.95.



For an additional \$15.00 you can upgrade your National Park Pass to a **Golden Eagle Pass**, which provides free admission to all national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other federal fee areas. Other passes available for purchase include:

Golden Age Pass

\$10.00 One time fee; lifetime pass available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. 62 years of age or older.

Golden Access Pass

Free. Lifetime pass available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled.

Exploring the Park Idaho, Washington, Oregon

"I never said the land was mine to do with as I choose. The one who has the right to dispose of it is the one who has created it"

Chief Joseph

Spalding Visitor Center



Park rangers and volunteers are available to provide information on sites and activities at Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The visitor center is located ten miles east of Lewiston, Idaho off of US Highway 95. The visitor center is open daily from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Memorial Day to Labor Day** - 4:30 pm for the rest of the year. Park staff can be reached at (208) 843-2261 or through the park's web site at www.nps.gov/nepe.

Park Film: 'Nez Perce - Portrait of a People', provides an introduction to the Nez Perce story and is shown on request throughout the day.

Museum Exhibits feature an outstanding collection of Nez Perce clothing, tools, weapons, and ceremonial objects.

Book Store and Sales Items: The Northwest Interpretive Association has a sales outlet where you can purchase books and other items about the Nez Perce and the National Park Service.

Virtual Tour of the Park: A web-based version of the driving tour is available on the park's web site at: www.nps.gov/nepe/sites.htm.

Summer Programs

From **June 5 through September 6, 2004** the park staff gives programs that include museum tours and tipi pitching demonstrations at the Spalding visitor center. **Programs are offered daily** through Labor Day at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm.

Atlatl Demonstrations: On **June 26, July 24, and August 28** the park staff will offer atlatl demonstrations at 10:00 am. Atlatl's are devices used to throw spears. They were historically used by native peoples for hunting and are in use today by a small but avid group of hobbyists.

Programs Around the Park

Heart of the Monster: At 7:00 pm every **Thursday** evening from **June 10 through September 2, 2004** a ranger will offer a program. The site is open daily from sunrise to sunset. An interpretive shelter

Highway 12 - Highway of History



Lolo Pass Visitor Center and Rest Area.

Highway 12 is a popular historical and scenic route to western Montana and north Idaho. The highway offers access to the Forest Road 500, the Lolo Motorway, the Selway River, Lolo Pass, historic Powell Ranger Station and various campgrounds.

Clearwater National Forest will be offering a variety of evening campfire programs at Powell and Wilderness Gateway Campgrounds from early June through Labor Day, 2004. To find out more about the programs offered on any given night, please call the Kooskia Ranger Station at (208) 926-4274 or the Powell Ranger Station at (208) 942-3113. The Lolo Pass Visitor Center can be reached at (208) 942-1234.

and audio stations explain the significance of this site in the story of the creation of the Nez Perce people.

White Bird Battlefield: From **June 1 through September 1, 2004** volunteers will be at the battlefield overlook **every Tuesday and Wednesday** 9:00 am - 11:00 am. The overlook and interpretive shelter are off of U.S. Highway 95 and provide a view and exhibits about the first battle of the Nez Perce War. A self-guided walking tour of the battlefield begins 1.2 miles north of the town of Whitebird.

Special Programs

Joseph, Oregon: Ranger programs are held every **Wednesday** from **June 16 through September 1, 2004**, at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. They are held at the 'Nez Perce Homeland Project' office on Main Street in downtown Joseph.

Special Events

Throughout the summer months, there are a number of annual events that occur that could be of interest if you have the time. This is not an exhaustive list, but provides some alternatives to choose from:

White Bird Battlefield Memorial, June 17

Chief Joseph Memorial Pow-wow, June 18-20 in Lapwai Idaho

Tamkaliks Celebration, July 16-18 in Wallowa, Oregon

Big Hole National Battlefield Memorial, August 7

Lookingglass Pow-wow, August 20-22 in Kamiah Idaho

Bear Paw Battlefield Memorial, October 2

Driving Tours

Idaho: Twenty-four sites are in Idaho and are identified by prominent road signs and a set of twin feathers. Driving this loop is in excess of 400 miles so plan accordingly. Maps and information is available at the Spalding Visitor Center.

Oregon and Washington: The sites in Washington are clustered around Nespelem on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and are approximately 45 minutes from Spokane, Washington and approximately four hours from the visitor center in Spalding.

Montana: Driving the loop from Big Hole to Bear Paw via Canyon Creek and back is approximately 770 miles. Maps and information are available at the Big Hole Battlefield Visitor Center.

Would You Like To Be A Junior Ranger?

Nez Perce NHP offers a junior ranger program. Six to twelve-year-olds can participate and it takes approximately one hour to complete the assignments. To participate in the program, the materials and patch cost \$1.00.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail



In 1986, Congress established the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail to commemorate the 1877 war. The trail begins at Wallowa Lake in Oregon and extends 1,170 miles to the Bear Paw Battlefield. The trail is managed by the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with other partners, including the National Park Service. Information on sites to see, and events along the trail can be found on the web at: www.fs.fed.us/npnht/.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

The Corps of Discovery and the Nez Perce

"... here we are in the vicinity of the best hunting grounds from Indian information, are convenient to Salmon which we expect daily and have an excellent pasture for our horses ..."

Meriwether Lewis, May 14, 1806

Lewis and Clark at Long Camp



Kamiah valley taken in the late 1880s. The location of Long Camp was near the bend of the Clearwater River.

The Lewis and Clark expedition was a trip of discovery not only for Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, but for the peoples they encountered along the way. The generosity of the Nez Perce made a deep impression on Lewis and Clark, establishing friendship and peace between two nations, the United States and Nez Perce, that lasted a generation.

Living among the Nez Perce allowed the two peoples to observe each other and interact. Beyond the day-to-day activities of gathering food through hunting, fishing, and trading, the men engaged in a variety of activities. Lewis continued collecting samples of flora and fauna while Clark applied his medical skills to aid the Nez Perce in the area. The men engaged in horse and foot races, shared music and company and made promises of friendship. The Nez Perce were at the height of their power and influence and provided horses, food, and geographical information to Lewis and Clark. Anxious to engage with the Nez Perce in trade, the Captains were very complimentary of the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce were cognizant of what a friendship with the United States could mean in terms of power and prestige and accepted the words the two Captains had to offer as the truth.

Unfortunately, the bonds of friendship that were established did not last. In the years that followed, the arrival of missionaries, miners, and settlers brought tensions and divisions to the Nez Perce. In the end, the promises of friendship were broken under the unceasing pace of western expansion. Rather than first among equals, the pressures of expansion and change splintered the Nez Perce and would eventually lead to war in 1877. The legacy of Lewis and Clark is mixed for the Nez Perce.

For more information on special events related to the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, please visit the official web site for the bicentennial at www.lewisandclark200.org. For more information the expedition's impact on the Nez Perce please visit the Lewis and Clark Rediscovery project available at: www.l3-lewisandclark.com/default.asp.

These links also brought with them portents of change that would have a profound effect on the Nez Perce.

After spending the winter of 1805-06 at Fort Clatsop the expedition was anxious to head east for home. They left the fort in March and reached the Clearwater River at the beginning of May, 1806. Deep snow in the Bitterroot Mountains blocked their passage. Rather than endanger the expedition, they waited for the snow pack to decrease. They set up camp at the foot of the Bitterroots near the present town of Kamiah, Idaho and remained with the Nez Perce for the next four weeks. With the exception of their winter encampments, this sojourn was the longest period spent with a native people during the expedition.

Lewis and Clark Sites Around the Park

Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield includes a number of sites that Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark passed through or camped at on their journey across western Montana and central Idaho.

Spalding Visitor Center

The museum has a Peace Medal on display that may have been given to *Kepowan*, a Palouse headman, in October of 1805 by Lewis and Clark. Information on other Lewis and Clark sites and bicentennial events in the region are available at the visitor center.

Canoe Camp

At the end of September 1805, Lewis and Clark made the transition from land to water at the Canoe Camp site. With some assistance from the Nez Perce, the Corps of Discovery built several dugout canoes for the trip down the river. Canoe Camp is located 2.5 miles west of Orofino, Idaho on U.S. Highway 12 and has outdoor exhibits and a portable toilet.

Weippe Prairie

On September 20, 1805 William Clark came onto the prairie after ten days of some of the most arduous weather and trail conditions that the Corps of Discovery encountered. The approximate location where Clark entered the prairie is off of Highway 11 approximately 3 miles south-east of the town of Weippe.

Lolo Trail

Visitors can retrace the route that Lewis and Clark took in 1805 and 1806 on U.S. Highway 12 over Lolo Pass or on Forest Road 500. Known as the Lolo Motorway, this is a primitive dirt road suitable for high clearance vehicles. **PLEASE NOTE:** A free, first come, first serve permit is required to travel a segment of the Lolo Motorway from July 15 to October 1, 2004. For more information please contact the Lochsa Ranger District at (208) 926-4274 or on the web at: www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/

Lolo Pass

In September 1805, the expedition passed through Lolo Pass. Today, a rest area and visitor center are located at Lolo Pass. The

rest area is open twenty-four hours a day; the visitor center is open seven days a week from early June through Labor Day from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (PDT). Call (208) 942-1234 for more information.

Long Camp

Unable to cross the Bitterroots on their return journey, the expedition lived among the Nez Perce for a month at a site known as Long Camp. The town of Kamiah has since grown around the site of Long Camp and is now occupied by a sawmill and lumber yard. This is private property - there is no public access to the Long Camp site. An interpretive sign is located on a pull out south of Kamiah on Hwy 12.

Big Hole National Battlefield

On July 3, 1806 at Travelers' Rest near Missoula, Montana, Lewis and Clark split the expedition into two groups. On July 6, Clark's group camped a few miles west of the Battlefield. Over the summer of 2004 the park will have special programs on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Please see **page 7** of the visitor's guide for the program schedule.

Exploring the Park

Montana

"We camped on the prairie by the river. The next day we dug camas and baked it in the ground . . . It was still in the pits the next morning when the soldiers charged our camp. We were sleeping when they came. Many women who had camas were killed. Their camas were left where they had baked it when we had to leave."

Penahwenonmi - Wife of Wounded Head

Big Hole National Battlefield




Big Hole National Battlefield is one of five major battle sites of the 1877 War between the Nez Perce and the U.S. Army. On August 9-10 between 75-90 Nez Perce men, women and children and 31 soldiers lost their lives in one of the bloodiest battle's in the history of the war.

Hours of Operation

Big Hole National Battlefield is located ten miles west of Wisdom, Montana on State Highway 43. Your visit to the battlefield should begin with a stop at the park's visitor center. Park staff can be reached at (406) 689-3155.

From **May 29 through June 25, 2004 the visitor center is open from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm** and **June 26 through September 12, 2004 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm**. After September 12, 2004 the visitor center begins **winter hours and will be open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**. The park is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays.

Park staff can assist with your visit and provide general information about the battlefield and surrounding area. The visitor center contains a small museum with exhibits, a film, viewing deck, and book sales area. The park film, *Weet'uciklitukt: There's No Turning Back, Battle at Big Hole* provides an introduction to the Nez Perce War of 1877 and the tragedy that took place here. The film is shown throughout the day and is closed captioned. 

Summer Activities

Tipi pitching at 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. This program provides an introduction to the Nez Perce and their culture. The program is thirty minutes in length and held on the visitor center lawn.

Guided Battlefield walk at 1:30 pm. The walk allows visitors to experience the battlefield from the perspectives of the soldiers and Nez Perce. Walks are ninety minutes in length.


Battlefield talks at Noon, 3:00 pm, and 4:00 pm. These short talks introduce visitors to the battle at Big Hole. Talks are fifteen minutes in length held on the visitor center observation deck.

Museum Explorations. Short talks held throughout the day in the museum relating to the events of 1877.

Campfire Programs. From **July 3 to September 4, 2004**, each Saturday at the U.S. Forest Service May Creek Campground, park staff will give evening programs beginning at 8:00 pm.

Summer Weekend Traditions: From **July 3 to September 5, 2004**

at Noon and 3:00 pm, every Saturday and noon on Sunday cultural demonstrators will provide programs on the people, cultures, and institutions that shaped the American west (see **page 7** for schedule).

Sign Language Interpreter. The battlefield has a sign language interpreter on staff and is available to interpret tipi pitching, guided battlefield walks, talks, and museum explorations. To schedule these services, please call ahead or e-mail patti_bacon@nps.gov. 

Trails

The park offers three short trails that are easy to moderate in difficulty. Trail guides and other information are available at the visitor center.

Construction Alert: June 7, 2004 to June 18, 2004 access to the Siege area and Howitzer capture site will be closed as the foot bridge across the north fork of the Big Hole river is replaced. Access to the Nez Perce camp trail will remain open during construction.

Services

The nearest services can be found in Wisdom, 10 miles east of the park. Wisdom is a small community with a gas station, two restaurants and a small hotel. Numerous camping opportunities exist in the adjacent Beaverhead - Deer Lodge National Forest.

Yellowstone National Park: Each week park staff offers programs on the passage of the Nez Perce through Yellowstone during the 1877 war. Program information is available at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center.

Bear Paw Battlefield



Bear Paw Battlefield is a unit of Nez Perce National Historical Park and the end of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The battlefield is open daily from dawn to dusk and is located 16 miles south of Chinook, Montana on Route 240. There is no entrance fee at this site.

Facilities are limited at the battlefield - a few covered picnic tables and vault toilets are available.

Blaine County Museum: To get an orientation to the last battle of the Nez Perce War, your first stop should be the Blaine County Museum at 501 Indiana Street in Chinook at (406) 357-2590.

The museum offers a short audiovisual presentation *40 Miles to Freedom* about the battle and siege at Bear Paw. The museum also offers exhibits on local history and paleontology. From **Memorial Day through Labor Day, the museum is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (The museum is closed for lunch between noon and 1 pm) and on Sunday from Noon to 5:00 pm**. You can pick up a brochure with a map at either the museum or the battlefield.

Trails: At the battlefield, a self-guided loop trail one and one-quarter mile in length winds through the battlefield, offering visitors a chance to reflect on what occurred. The trail is moderate in difficulty so please bring a hat and plenty of water if you visit during the hotter summer months.

Directions: The nearest services are in Chinook and Havre, 21 miles to the west. Please plan your visit accordingly. To contact the park ranger or schedule a battlefield tour at Bear Paw, please call (406) 357-3130.

Stories From Nez Perce Country

"It was lonesome leaving. Husband dead, friends buried or held prisoners. I felt that I was leaving all that I had but I did not cry".

Ollokot's Wife

Big Hole: Summer Weekend Traditions

Glacier Natural History Association proudly presents Summer Weekend Traditions. These programs provide an opportunity for visitors to experience the culture of the Nez Perce and the U.S. Army in the 19th century every weekend **July 3, through September 5, 2004**. Each weekend a cultural demonstrator will be on hand Saturdays at noon and 3:00 pm and Sundays at noon.

July 3-4: A series of demonstrations will focus on the Corps of Discovery's journey through the northwest. In 1806, Captain William Clark and his party traveled through the Big Hole Valley on their way to Camp Fortunate to recover canoes and possessions cached the previous summer.

July 10-11: Josiah Pinkham, Nez Perce ethnographer, will share his heritage by comparing the 19th century Nez Perce to the Nez Perce of today. Josiah will also address how language preservation is central to the perpetuation of Nez Perce traditions.

July 17-18: JR Spencer, a Nez Perce tribal member and accomplished flautist, will share his knowledge in making wooden flutes. JR demonstrates his culture through music, story telling, and making traditional parfleche containers.

July 24-25: Bob Brown, Director of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, will portray Captain Charles Rawn, reminiscing on his military career with the 7th U.S. Infantry during the summer of 1877.

July 31-August 1: Lee Bourgeau is the Human Resources Director and a Legal Counsel for the Nez Perce Tribe. Lee is a gatherer of traditional plants and roots and will share her knowledge of their uses by the Nez Perce.

August 7-8: Two hundred Nez Perce escaped the Battle of the Bear Paw and lived in exile under North West Mounted Police (NWMP) protection in Saskatchewan, Canada. Fort Walsh National Historic Site interpreters will tell the story of the NWMP and the Nez Perce living in Canada.

August 14-15: Military Medicine of the Frontier. George Marcum will use his collection of period medical equipment and uniforms to discuss what life was like as a contract surgeon for the U.S. Military in the late 1800s.

August 21-22: Nez Perce Tribe Horse Program. Many explorers took note of Nez Perce horses, commenting on their spotted markings, beautiful regalia, and ceremonial painting. A Nez Perce tribal member and one of the tribe's prized horses will be present to share the traditional importance of the horse and the modern breeding program.

August 28-29: Nakia Williamson, Nez Perce Tribe Archivist, is an artist who works with both traditional and modern media. He is well-versed in working with quill wrapped horsehair and will demonstrate this traditional art form. Nakia will also show some of the paintings he has completed for Nez Perce National Historical Park.

September 4-5: A series of demonstrations will commemorate the efforts of the Corps of Discovery crossing the Rocky Mountains. In early September 1805, Lewis and Clark crossed Lost Trail Pass, encountering difficult conditions - bitter cold and snow.

These programs are sponsored by the **Glacier Natural History Association** and **Big Hole National Battlefield**.

The Journey to Grandmother's Land: The Nez Perce in Canada



Fort Walsh in the 1870s. The fort was garrisoned by the North West Mounted Police to provide law and order to southwest Saskatchewan. They also supervised Lakota Sioux refugees who crossed the border during the Sioux War of 1876-77 and Nez Perce from the 1877 war. (Glenbow Museum)

The account of the Nez Perce flight for freedom in 1877 is an epic story in the history of the United States. While the plight of the Nez Perce is well documented, less is known of the Nimiipuu who reached Canada after this long journey, only to find an uncertain exile in "Grandmother's Land."

Of the nearly 800 Nez Perce who embarked on this journey beginning in the spring of 1877, approximately 650 reached Bear Paw, the last battle of the war. Unable to enlist the support of the Crow, the traditional allies of the Nez Perce, they decided to seek refuge in Canada. A year earlier, after Little Bighorn, between 3,000 and 4,000 Lakota had escaped to Canada or "Grandmother's Land," a reference to Queen Victoria. During the battle and siege at Bear Paw and in the immediate aftermath, a substantial number of Nez Perce escaped and reached Canada under the guidance of White Bird. Nearly 220 Nez Perce made it to Grandmother's Land.

The journey north was not easy. The wife of Wounded Head describes leaving Bear Paw and her ordeal in reaching Canada:

"We cried with misery and loneliness, as we still heard the guns of the battle. Daylight came, and we moved a little farther down from that place No moccasins, I am barefooted"

Then we travel toward Sitting Bull's camp. Moving that fifth day, towards evening the men killed a buffalo bull. A fire is built. Meat is cooked by roasting, and we have supper. . . . Next day we come to some Chippewa Indians. They are nice people. They give us food. I am given a pair of moccasins. Then I feel better."

Mindful of their own experiences with the U.S. Army, the Lakota people welcomed the Nez Perce and shared their lodges. The following June, groups of Nez Perce began leaving Canada in hopes of returning safely to Idaho. Many were killed, chased back to Canada or captured and sent to Kansas to join the Nez Perce in exile. Fearing more bloodshed, White Bird attempted to stop the exodus but was unsuccessful. By the spring of 1879, White Bird's camp was reduced to just about ten lodges.

Despite pleas from the U.S. and Canadian governments to return, White Bird and his small band refused to leave. This band eventually moved west to Pincher Creek, Canada near Lethbridge. Sadly, White Bird's life ended in 1892 at the hands of a fellow band member known simply as "Nez Perce Sam."

Today, many Nez Perce have Canadian relatives who are the descendants of individuals who escaped into the Cypress Hills to camp with the Lakota. Many Nez Perce travel to Canada each year to host ceremonies and commemorative activities with their Canadian friends and families.

The NPS is beginning a comprehensive study of the Nez Perce experience in Canada. Additionally, in the summer of 2004 staff from Fort Walsh will visit various sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park. This partnership is a valuable tool for both NPS and Parks Canada staff as they explore the Nez Perce experience in Grandmother's Land.



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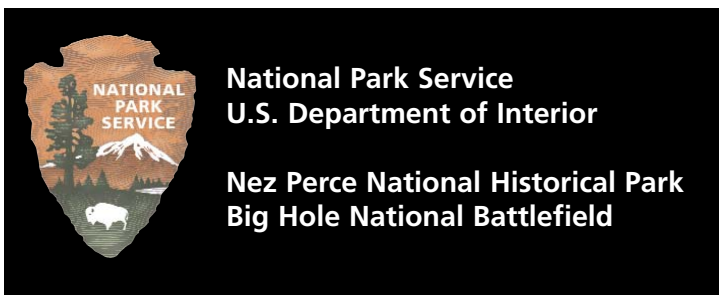
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The Northwest Interpretive Association and the Glacier Natural History Association - Park Partners Working Together

The Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA) and the Glacier Natural History Association (GNHA) are non-profit organizations dedicated to providing visitors with materials that promote a better understanding of the Nez Perce people, their culture and history. NWIA is the partner for Nez Perce National Historical Park and GNHA supports Big Hole National Battlefield.

Funds raised through the sale of publications are returned to the parks to help support their interpretive and educational programs. Projects that NWIA and GNHA have supported in the past include the publication of this newspaper, trail guides, curriculum guides, the purchase of books for the park's libraries, and the purchase of digital camera equipment.

Enjoy the benefits of membership and help support your National Parks! There are many categories of membership available to meet your needs. In return for your support, you will receive discounts on merchandise at sales outlets, newsletters so you can stay in touch with what's going on, and the opportunity to attend annual meetings and membership events. For more information please contact:



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