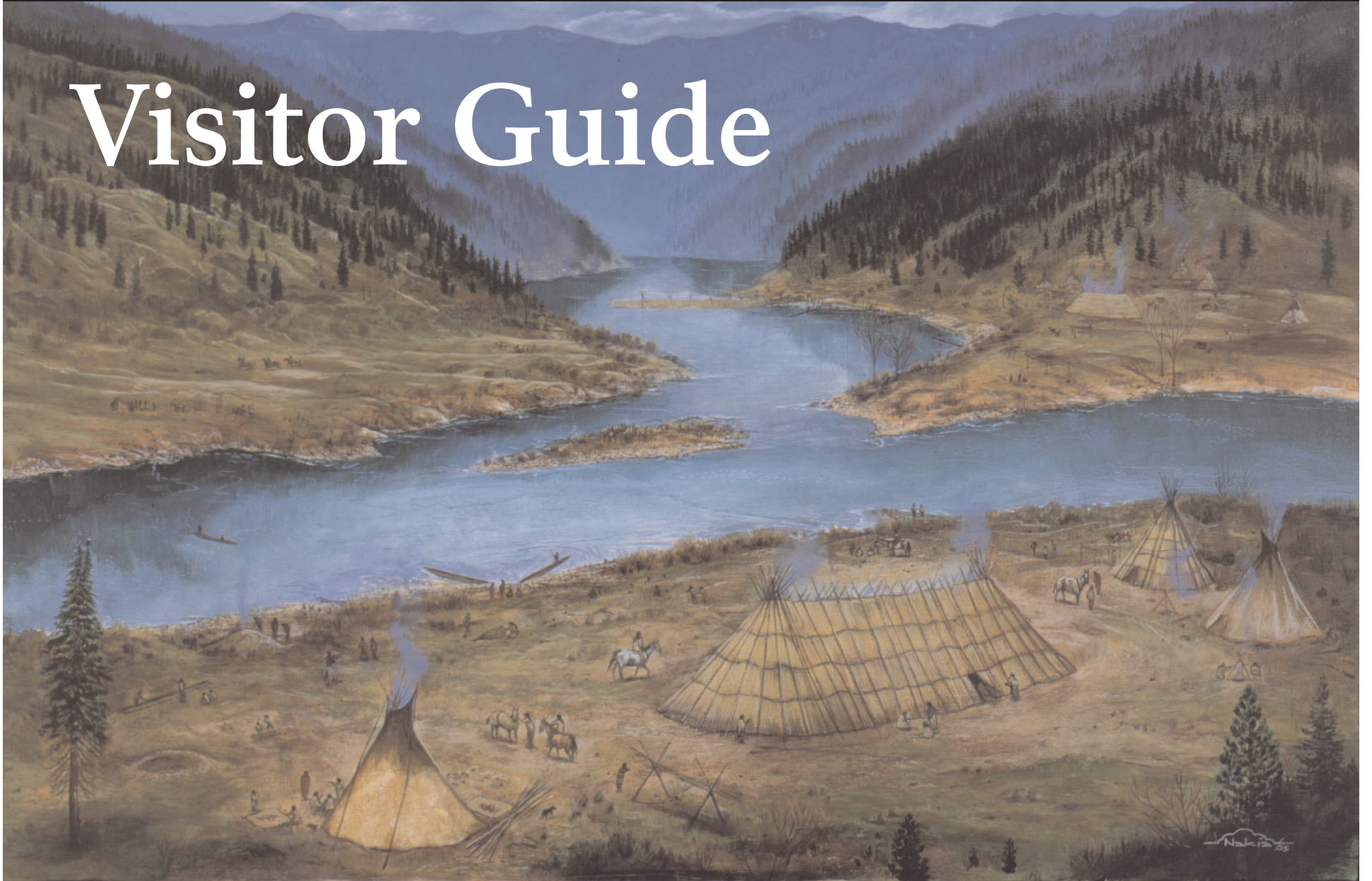




Visitor Guide



Canoe Camp was located at the confluence of the north fork of the Clearwater River, near the site of present day Orofino, Idaho. This illustration provides a glimpse to what the site may have looked like prior to the coming of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the fall of 1805. Illustration by Nakia Williamson, Property of Nez Perce National Historical Park, NPS.

Lewis and Clark Among the Nez Perce

The *Nimiipuu* or Nez Perce people have always lived here. When the expedition led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ventured into this country in the fall of 1805, they encountered a society tied closely to the land. A land of plenty, a sacred land of rivers, canyons, prairies, mountains. Home.

Imagine the questions that must have been asked as these strangers walked out onto the camas fields of the Weippe Prairie: Who are they? What do they want? Should we fight? Should we help? Why? Why not?

A respected Nez Perce elder, *Wetxuuwiis* (Wet-k'hoo-wees), responded to these questions. Captured by the Blackfeet as a young girl, she went east and became acquainted with fur traders that treated her with kindness. Her memories compelled her to speak, urging that the band do no harm to these strangers.

The Nez Perce ultimately provided assistance to the Expedition in the form of food, horses, directions, and guides in the fall of 1805. When the Expedition returned again in the spring of 1806, Lewis and Clark spent nearly a month living among the Nez Perce. With the possible exception of the winter encampments, Lewis and Clark spent more time with the Nez Perce than any other group. When the Expedition left the Nez Perce, they had established the first formal relationship between nations.



The empty tipi frames at Big Hole National Battlefield stand in testimony to the broken promises of peace and friendship between the Nez Perce and the United States.

Explore these places. Learn their stories and treat them with care. They are still called Home.

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.

Corps II: 200 Years to the Future

Beginning in September, 2005, coinciding with the arrival of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark into Nez Perce country, activities commemorating the bicentennial of the expedition will commence.

Since 2003, the National Park Service's Corps of Discovery II has been on the road following the route taken by Lewis and Clark 200 years ago. Corps

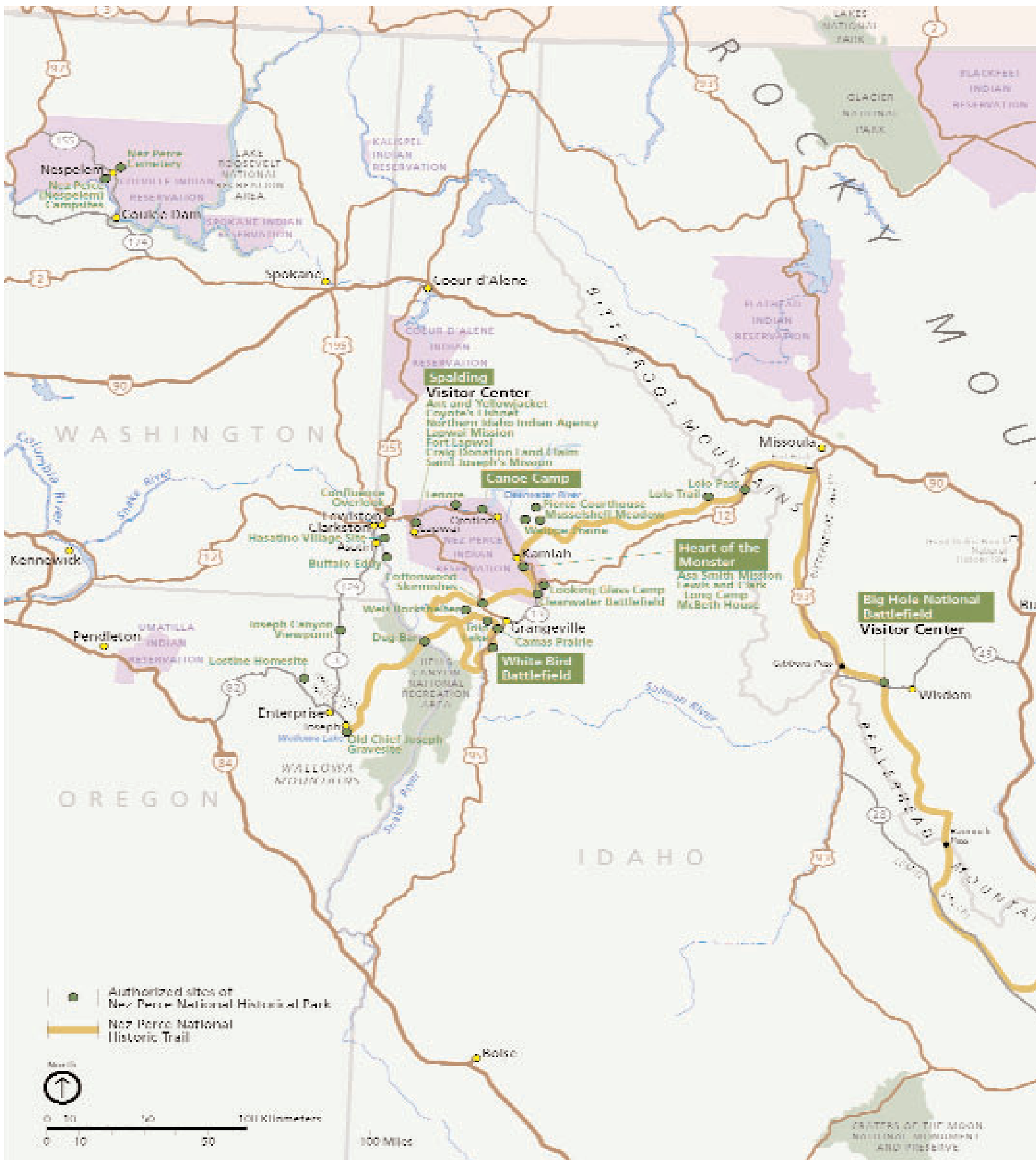
II is composed of interpretive exhibits and a performance venue known as the Tent of Many Voices, providing space for demonstrations, cultural presentations, and audiovisual programs. Corps II provides this stage so the public can share their stories and reflect on the impacts of the expedition had over the last two hundred years.

After several weeks in western Montana, Corps II will be in Kamiah, Idaho from September 16-26 and Clarkston, Washington from October 1-9 before continuing west to Oregon and the Pacific Ocean.

Corps II will return to Nez Perce National Historical Park, from June 3-17, 2006 coinciding with the Nez Perce Tribe's signature event, The Summer of Peace in June 14-17, 2006.

Contact Information

For information on Corps II, please visit the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail web site at www.nps.gov/lecl. Events related to the bicentennial can be found at the official web site of the bicentennial, www.lewisandclark200.org.



Idaho

Confluence Overlook

Donald MacKenzie established a trading post near the confluence of the Clearwater River in September 1812. The Nez Perce were not interested in the fur trade and MacKenzie sold out to the British.

Coyote's Fishnet

Coyote and Black Bear got into an argument. In frustration, Coyote threw his fishing net on a hill and tossed Black Bear on another, turning him into stone. Both features are visible today.

Ant and Yellowjacket

Ant and Yellowjacket were arguing over who had the right to fish for Salmon when they got into an argument. Coyote asked them to stop and they did heed his warning, whereby Coyote turned them into a stone arch.

Spalding

The Spalding site has seen many uses by the Nez Perce and was the location of Henry and Eliza Spalding's mission. Also here is the park's visitor center and museum is located here as well. Nearby is where the Spalding's first settled in 1836.

Northern Idaho Indian Agency

As part of the treaty process, the U.S. Government set up an agency to oversee the implementation of the terms of the treaties.

Fort Lapwai

In the fall of 1862, a detachment of volunteers chose this location for their fort. The 1883 officers' quarters at the southwest end of the parade ground is one of the few buildings that survive.

Craig Donation Land Claim

This is the site of the first claim by the first Euro-American settler in Idaho. William Craig was a mountain man, an interpreter, and friend of the Nez Perce.

St. Joseph's Mission

This was the first Roman Catholic mission among the Nez Perce. It was dedicated on September 8, 1874 by Father Joseph Cataldo, who had built it.

Cottonwood Skirmishes

After skirmishes with the U.S. Army and volunteers here on July 3 and 5, 1877, the main body of Nez Perce was able to evade the Army.

Weis Rockshelter

More than 8,000 years ago humans first made this home and continuously inhabited the area until about 600 years ago.

Camas Prairie

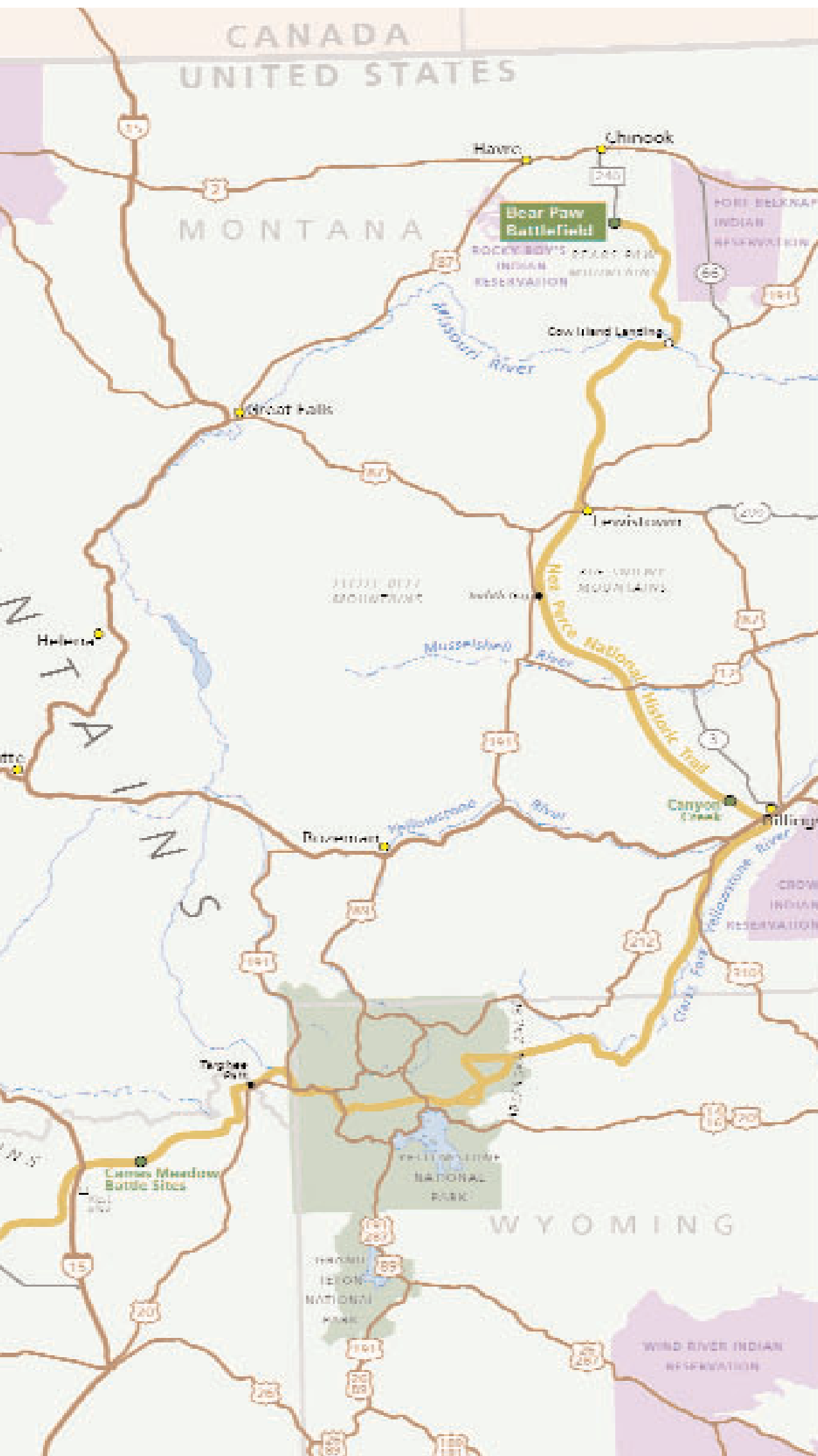
Where wheat fields stretch to the horizon today, camas lilies once grew. Camas bulbs were a major food source for the Nez Perce, and they came here in late summer and early fall to dig them.

Tolo Lake

TIn 1877, the non-treaty bands congregated at this ancient council site known as Tephalewam before moving onto the reservation. Frustrated by injustices against the Nez Perce, three Nez Perce warriors raided homesteads on the Salmon River from this site.

White Bird Battlefield

On June 17, 1877, the first battle of the Nez Perce War was fought here. The U.S. cavalry was defeated with heavy losses and the Nez Perce began their long journey to find safety and sanctuary. A self-guided walking tour of the battlefield is available at the trailhead.



Montana

Big Hole National Battlefield

On the morning of August 9, 1877, U.S. troops surprised the Nez Perce who crossed the Bitterroots trying to evade capture. Between 60 and 90 Nez Perce men, women, and children were killed. The Army lost 29 soldiers and 40 wounded.

Canyon Creek

After emerging from Yellowstone National Park, the Nez Perce were pursued by the cavalry. In a rearguard action the Nez Perce were able to gain time by successfully stopping the pursuing troops.

Bear Paw Battlefield

Just 40 miles short of the Canadian border, the Nez Perce were besieged by the Army and forced to surrender on October 5, 1877. They had traveled 1,170 miles in the nearly four months since the first skirmishes.

Oregon

Dug Bar

At this traditional crossing of the Snake River, Joseph and his band crossed the river in May, 1877 as they left their homes in Oregon for the reservation in Idaho. Located in Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, the site is accessible by either boat or a high clearance vehicle.

Joseph Canyon Viewpoint

This was one of the winter homes of the Nez Perce. Tradition holds that Chief Joseph was born in a cave along the east bank of the creek.

Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite

The remains of the elder Chief Joseph were reburied here in 1926. Nearby are the graves of other Nez Perce and some settlers.

Lostine Homesite

At the junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers is a traditional Nez Perce summer campsite where Old Chief Joseph died in 1871. This landscape has changed little from the days before the area was settled. **Not a developed site.**

Washington

Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger

In 1885 Chief Joseph and his band were allowed to return to the Northwest from Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Joseph spent his remaining years on the Colville Reservation and died here in 1904. **The cemetery is private property and a sacred place.**

Nez Perce Campsites at Nespelem

Chief Joseph's band continued their traditional way of life while living on the Colville Reservation. These were their winter and summer homes and were the last places where Joseph lived.

Not a developed site.

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) 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/.

Clearwater Battlefield

On July 11, 1877 Gen. Oliver O. Howard crossed the Clearwater River and hoped to take the Nez Perce by surprise. His hopes came to naught and the fighting ended with the Nez Perce withdrawing.

Heart of the Monster

This is the location of the Heart of the Monster, where Coyote defeated a monster and, in turn, created the Nez Perce people. Audio stations tell the story in English and in the Nez Perce language.

Asa Smith Mission

In April 1839, Rev. and Mrs. Asa Smith established a mission in the Kamiah area. Unsited to the demands of such work, the Smiths left in 1841.

Lewis and Clark Long Camp

Near here Lewis and Clark camped in the spring of 1806 heading east for home. Here they waited for the snow in the Bitterroot Mountains to melt and stayed among the Nez Perce for a month.

Canoe Camp

In the early fall of 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition rest-

ed here and built canoes of hollowed-out logs for the final leg of their trip to the Pacific Ocean.

Lenore

For thousands of years, this site was used by the Nez Perce and their ancestors.

Weippe Prairie

This was a root-gathering place for the Nez Perce and it was here on September 20, 1805, that Lewis and Clark first met the Nez Perce. During the 1877 War, the Nez Perce came here after the Battle of the Clearwater.

Pierce

In September 1860, gold was found on the Nez Perce reservation, triggering another treaty that reduced the size of the reservation. The other site of interest is the old Shoshone County courthouse, completed in 1862.

Musselshell Meadow

For many generations, Nez Perce have come here to dig for camas. General Howard camped here at the end of July, 1877 while pursuing the Nez Perce over the Lolo Trail.

Lolo Pass and Trail

This historic Nez Perce trail was used by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and 1806. During the 1877 War the Nez Perce followed the trail on into Montana. The U.S. Forest Service maintains a visitor center at Lolo Pass.

Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite

The Looking Glass Band tried to remain neutral in the conflict between the non-treaty Nez Perce. The Army attacked the village. Looking Glass regarded this as treachery and joined the others against the Army.

Buffalo Eddy

The unique petroglyphs of this area are evidence of the longevity of the Nez Perce occupation of the area. Defacing federal archeology property is a federal offense.

Hasotino

Hasotino was a site used until the end of the 19th century and was located near an important eel fishery.

Camas Meadow Battle Site

After the tragedy at Big Hole, the Nez Perce gained time by stealing more than 200 of the Army's pack mules and horses, halting their advance.

Lewis and Clark Sites

Nez Perce National Historical Park 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

See a Jefferson Peace Medal given to *Kepowan*, a Palouse/Nez Perce headman in October of 1805. Nez Perce history and culture is featured in exhibits, a film, and bookstore.



Canoe Camp

At Canoe Camp Lewis and Clark made the transition from land to water. From September 26 to October 7 1805, with some assistance from the Nez Perce, the Corps of Discovery built several dugout canoes for the trip down the river. Canoe

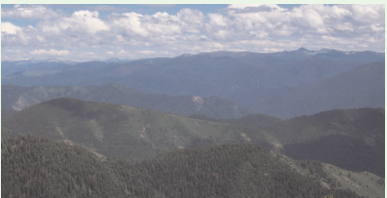
Camp is located 2.5 miles west of Orofino, Idaho on U.S. Highway 12 and has outdoor exhibits.



Weippe Prairie

On September 20, 1805 William Clark came onto the prairie after ten days of atrocious weather and arduous trail conditions. The approximate location where Clark entered the prairie is off of Highway 11 approximately 3 miles southeast of the town of

Weippe. Follow the signs to the turn out. The Weippe Discovery Center also has exhibits related to Lewis and Clark.



Lolo Trail and Pass

Visitors can retrace the route that Lewis and Clark took in 1805 and 1806 on U.S. Highway 12 over Lolo Pass or on primitive dirt road known as the Lolo Motorway (Forest Road 500). 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Forest Road 500 is suitable **only** for high clearance vehicles. Trailers are not recommended. A free, first come, first serve permit is required to travel a segment of the Lolo Motorway from July 15 to October 1, 2005. For more information please contact the Lochsa Ranger District office at (208) 926-4274 or on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/



Long Camp

Delayed in crossing the Bitterroots on their return journey in 1806, the expedition lived among the Nez perce for a month at a site known as Long Camp in present day Kamiah, Idaho. The site of Long Camp and is now occupied by a sawmill and lumber

yard. This is private property - **there is no public access**. 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 at Trail Creek, a few miles west of the Battlefield. The next day they crossed into the Big Hole valley and

continued to a campsite near present day Jackson. Regional information on Lewis and Clark is available at the park's visitor center.

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

Nez Perce National Historical Park - Quick Reference

Nez Perce National Historical Park

39063 US Hwy 95
Spalding, ID 83540

Phone: (208) 843-2261, ext. 199

Fax: (208) 843-2001

E-Mail: NEPE_Visitor_Information@nps.gov

Web Site: www.nps.gov/nepe

Spalding Visitor Center

Located ten miles east of Lewiston, Idaho on U.S. Highway 95.

Summer: Memorial Day to Labor Day - Daily
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Rest of the Year: Daily, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

The visitor center offers exhibits, a film, and a bookstore on Nez Perce culture and history.

Fees: Free

Restrooms are accessible. Audio description available for park film and museum exhibit.

Big Hole National Battlefield

P.O. Box 237
Wisdom, MT 59761

Phone: (406) 689-3155

Fax: (406) 689-3151

E-Mail: BIHO_Visitor_Information@nps.gov

Web Site: www.nps.gov/biho

Visitor Center

Located ten miles west of Wisdom, Montana on State Highway 43.

Summer: May 28 - September 10, 2005
9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Rest of the Year: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's

The visitor center offers exhibits, a film, and a bookstore on the Nez Perce war of 1877.

Fees: Fees collected May 28, 2005 to September 25, 2005

\$5.00 per vehicle

\$3.00 Person traveling alone

Restrooms and visitor center are accessible.

Bear Paw Battlefield

301 Ohio
Chinook, MT 59523

Phone: (406) 357-3130

Fax: (406) 357-3140

E-Mail: NEPE_Bear_Paw@nps.gov

Web Site: www.nps.gov/nepe

Visitor Center

Located in the Blaine County Museum
501 Indiana St., Chinook, MT

Summer: Memorial Day to Labor Day
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Closed between noon and 1 pm

Sunday: Noon to 5:00 pm.

Rest of the Year: Monday-Friday, 1pm-5pm

Located 16 miles south of Chinook, Montana on Route 240. The battlefield is open daily from dawn to dusk with a self guided trail, picnic tables, and pit toilets.

Fees: Free

Pit toilets and a picnic table are at the battlefield.



Comments?

Editor, Nez Perce NHP
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Spalding, ID 83540-6086

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Park - NPS

The *Visitor Guide* is published by Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield in cooperation with the Northwest Interpretive Association and Glacier Natural History Association. Printed by American Color Printing, Shakopee, Minnesota.

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