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 IHSI No. 49-3394

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Tolo Lake
 other names/site number NEPE Site # 29; Tepahlewam; Split Rocks; Tipahxlee'wuhm; Tolo Lake Camp

2. Location

street & number Tolo Lake Rd., Nez Perce National Historical Park

N/A
XX

 not for publication
 city or town Grangeville vicinity
 state Idaho code ID county Idaho code 049 zip code 83530

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
 In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Suzi Pengilly 20 Dec 2010
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
 Suzi Pengilly, Deputy SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Tolo Lake
 Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
 County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
1		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/Natural Feature

LANDSCAPE/Natural Feature

DOMESTIC / Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: N/A

Tolo Lake

Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Tolo Lake is located on Camas Prairie in Idaho County, in north-central Idaho, about five miles west of the town of Grangeville. The spring-fed lake, a shallow, irregularly shaped body of water, is a natural lake, approximately thirty-five acres in size. A small creek and a ditch drain into the lake from the east. Tolo is the only lake on the prairie and as such, has long served as important habitat for local fauna and migratory birds. The National Register boundary comprises approximately 206 acres, which includes the entire lake and surrounding prairie lands, primarily south of the lake, where the Nez Perce historically camped.

Tolo Lake is surrounded by cultivated farm land and cattle pastures. Three separate private owners, and one public owner, hold property around the lake. The State of Idaho owns the lake and its immediate boundary; this property is administered as the Tolo Lake Access Area by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The access area is on the west side and includes a parking lot, toilets, a boat ramp, a concrete walk to a wooden dock, two picnic shelters, and interpretive signage that addresses the natural resources and history of the lake. Another picnic shelter to the south of the access area was destroyed by wind shortly after construction and only its concrete pad remains.

The Idaho Fish and Game Department has fenced the shoreline to prevent cattle from eroding the banks. A local Boy Scout troop established a path leading around the lake; the path is paved for a few hundred feet north of the access area and then becomes primitive until it connects with an abandoned road on the southwest side. To the immediate west and to the north, the land is slightly higher than the lake, and the area is grassland. On the east, the shore of the lake is lower and holds deposits of basalt rock. The southeastern/southern shore is low marshland. Idaho Fish and Game has planted trees, particularly willows, around much of the lake. The south and southeastern shores exhibit cattails and other typical marsh plants. Idaho Fish and Game also recently planted about 140 young trees—mostly pines—in the access area and to the immediate north. These trees are about two feet tall at the time of this nomination.

Camas Prairie surrounds Tolo Lake. To the north, upland prairie is visible as far as the eye can see. To the east, mountain foothills rise across an expanse of prairie. To the west, the edge of the Rocky Canyon gorge is barely visible across a basalt boulder field. From the southwest, Rocky Canyon emerges onto the Camas Prairie, broadening out from the narrow and rugged basalt cliff canyon to a wide ravine that approaches the lake.

In the 1960s, landowners who control the ditch leading to Tolo Lake closed it off and the lake began to dry up. Residents appealed to the State of Idaho and a dredging operation to remove built-up silt began in 1994. In the process, workers discovered Pleistocene-era mammoth fossils in the lake bed. Excavation of the fossils took place during the ensuing years, and the lake was refilled in the late 1990s. It is now stocked with fish and used as a recreational boating, fishing, and bird-hunting site. Ducks and geese regularly inhabit the lake. Outboard motors are prohibited. Five archaeological sites and a Nez Perce trail were recorded on the upper shoreline of the lake in the 1970s.

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MILITARY

ETHNIC HERITAGE/NATIVE AMERICAN

Period of Significance

1877

Significant Dates

1877

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (Justification)

The Period of Significance - 1877 - reflects the date of the event for which the property is being nominated. The Tolo Lake site is eligible for its association with the events that occurred at and around this site in June, 1877, and that precipitated the outbreak of the Nez Perce War.

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Tolo Lake (*Tepahlewam*) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the national level as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. A traditional camping and camas-gathering site for the Nez Perce (*Nimiipuu*), Tolo Lake is particularly significant for its association with the outbreak of the Nez Perce War of 1877. Nez Perce bands resistant to moving onto a newly-established reservation in present-day north-central Idaho were finally compelled to leave their homelands in the spring of 1877. These bands gathered at Tolo Lake in the days before they were required to be on the reservation. A small number of young men, disturbed by the reality of being forced away from their ancestral lands and emboldened by events within the camp, left the area and killed several settlers on June 13 and 14, 1877, returning to Tolo Lake to announce that war had begun. The killings were the final act that touched off the Nez Perce War of 1877. In the Battle of White Bird Canyon that followed, the Nez Perce defeated U. S. Army soldiers and volunteers. After that battle, Chief Joseph, White Bird, Looking Glass, and other Nez Perce leaders fled with some 750 of their people across the Lolo Trail into Montana Territory. Following a 1,700-mile trek with the military in pursuit, and after several violent confrontations, the Nez Perce were stopped approximately 40 miles short of the Canadian border. Some were able to escape into Canada, but the majority of non-treaty Nez Perce surrendered and subsequently removed to the Southern Plains.

The 1877 Nez Perce War is a significant episode in the history of relations between the United States and Native Americans during the time of Euro-American settlement. The conflict between the generally peaceful and accommodating Nez Perce bands and the government that displaced them graphically illustrates the pressures that Euro-American settlement in the American West exerted upon Native Americans. In addition, the Nez Perce War was the first such conflict to be closely followed by the national press, inspiring many Americans to develop empathy for the Nez Perce people and their plight and admiration for their skills in battle and survival. Tolo Lake is significant as a site associated with the events that prompted the War.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Indian Wars

In the mid-nineteenth century, significant numbers of settlers began to move into the country west of the Mississippi. Americans, particularly farmers, were in search of available lands. Immigrants from European countries came to establish new homes. Missionaries went west in hopes of converting native peoples to Christian religions. Gold discoveries resulted in rushes of wealth-seekers to specific areas, followed by the merchants who would sell them goods and services. The Homestead Act brought settlers west, encouraged by the Federal Government's offer of free land. The construction of the first transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869, further increased traffic to the region. Between 1860 and 1880, three and one-half million people pushed into the American West.¹

As the new population grew, the pressures upon the region's original inhabitants—the Native Americans—increased dramatically. Most western tribes were seasonally migratory, relying on large expanses of territory to carry on their traditional lifestyles; the wave of settlement diminished the wild game and other resources upon which they depended. The federal government negotiated treaties with Indian tribes, encouraging them to cede large portions of their traditional lands with the remainder reserved for them. Settlers and local officials, believing they could put these lands to better use, often pressed for later modifications of treaties. Tribal members themselves disagreed about their acceptance of the treaties and their terms. The pressures of a rapidly changing society and the lack of solutions satisfactory to all parties continually caused strife. Many tribes, particularly those on the West Coast, had been subdued by

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

the Army in previous wars, and others had decided not to oppose the changes confronting them. Some tribes, however, resisted the effects of the encroaching settlement. That clash resulted in a series of Indian wars and conflicts beginning in the early 1860s and lasting through the 1880s. The Nez Perce War of 1877 was one of the last and most dramatic of these episodes.²

The Nez Perce and Their Homeland

Like other Native American groups in the West, the Nez Perce were profoundly affected by gold rushes, westward migration, missionary efforts, and U.S. policy. The group's first recorded contacts with non-Indians occurred early in the nineteenth century when explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traversed their territory in 1805-1806. Subsequently, the Nez Perce made ties with fur traders who came into the region. By 1836, missionary Henry Spalding had established himself among the Nez Perce. Spalding worked to convert them to Christianity and an agrarian lifestyle; subsequent missionary groups pursued essentially the same goals. While some Nez Perce did adopt Christianity and farming, many continued to follow traditional cultural practices and lifeways.

In the 1850s, the United States government began to negotiate treaties with area tribes to open public lands to settlers pouring into the Northwest. Through the treaties, the government often established reservations in an effort to ensure that Native Americans retained rights to inhabit certain areas. At the 1855 treaty council near Fort Walla Walla in Washington Territory, the leaders of some Nez Perce bands agreed to a treaty that relinquished lands to the east and south in return for the reservation of other traditional lands encompassing approximately five thousand square miles in present-day Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Similar land cessions created tensions between other tribes and the government, leading to tribal conflicts, including those with the Spokane and the Palouse. The Nez Perce, who had retained rights to their most valued lands, remained largely removed from these direct conflicts; however, the situation increased factionalism within the Tribe between those who opposed the treaty and those who had signed it. Government delays in providing the benefits promised by the treaty and confusion and discord about these issues of land cession exacerbated the divisions.

The discovery of gold on Nez Perce lands in the 1860s brought hordes of Euro-Americans into the territory. Some had success in finding gold; many more found subsistence and even prosperity by settling in the area and establishing farms, ranches and stores. As the demand for property intensified, so did the pressures on the government to free Nez Perce lands for settlement. In 1863, the government negotiated a modification of the 1855 Treaty with some leaders of the Nez Perce. The 1863 Treaty was not ratified and therefore not legally in effect until 1867. Its provisions relinquished lands in present-day Oregon and Idaho, opened them for Euro-American settlement in the late 1860s, and established a reservation for the Nez Perce in present-day north-central Idaho. Several bands who did not sign the treaty continued to live off the reservation and did not consider the agreement binding on them. These bands included the Wallowas of northeastern Oregon and the Lamtamas, the Pikunans, the Palouse, and the Alpowai, who lived along the Salmon and Snake rivers and the Middle Fork of the Clearwater. The refusal of the bands to abide by the treaty became the basis of strife in the 1870s.

During that period, pressure increased to open the Wallowa Valley in Oregon for non-Indian settlement, and particularly for ranching. In 1873, President Ulysses S. Grant issued an executive order that would set aside nearly 1,500 square miles of land for permanent use by the Nez Perce. However, a controversy arose about the area reserved for the Wallowa band; even some government officials protested the choice of lands made for the Nez Perce. To the chagrin of those clamoring to settle the valley, the executive order was rescinded. Amidst the rising tensions, a group of settlers and a band of Wallowas, headed by the Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph, narrowly avoided a violent confrontation. Consequently, the Department of Interior appointed a commission to study the issue, and that commission recommended that the Nez Perce who opposed the treaty provisions should be placed on lands within the reservation located in Idaho Territory. In January of 1877, those bands were directed to be on the reservation by April 1; they were, however, able to delay the move by arranging an early May meeting with Brigadier General Oliver Otis Howard, Commander of the Department of the Columbia.³

The May meeting brought together many of the men who would play prominent roles in the Nez Perce War. General Howard was a veteran of the Civil War and a former commissioner of the Freedman's Bureau, established to serve freed slaves after the War. Intensely religious, Howard championed Indian rights and believed that the people should be dealt with peaceably—with force used only as a last resort. Young Chief Joseph had succeeded his father, Old Joseph, as the leader of the Wallowa band. The younger Joseph was viewed by his people as a civic rather than a military leader. His brother, *Ollokot*, was respected as a warrior. White Bird, leader of the Lamtamas, attended the meeting as did *Toohoolhoolzote*, leader of the Pikunans. *Toohoolhoolzote* was the leader who Howard engaged most directly, and his fiery language led the general to jail him briefly. The band leaders and others repeated their objections to losing their lands, noting that they had not agreed to the land-cession treaty and explaining their cultural attachment to

Tolo Lake

Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho

County and State

their homelands. Howard, however, was adamant in his insistence that the bands had no choice but to move to the reservation by mid-June.⁴

Settlement on the Camas Prairie

While the Nez Perce struggled to deal with the influx of settlers and the demands of the federal government, Camas Prairie (surrounding Tolo Lake) began to attract white settlers. The prairie, an area about thirty miles long and twenty-five miles wide in present-day Idaho County, is an island of fertile land in a rugged area of mountains and deep river canyons, and the settlers recognized its potential. A few single men and the families of Aurora Shumway, Seth Jones, L. P. Brown, and John and Sarah Aram were among the first to come to the area in the early 1860s. The Brown family lived in the fledgling settlement of Mount Idaho on the eastern edge of the prairie. Shumway, along with a partner, John Crooks, established a significant cattle operation, bringing in hundreds of head of cattle from their former Oregon range. The Jones family also raised cattle. The Arams homesteaded on 160 acres, developed a farm, and brought fruit trees from their former home in Oregon to begin a nursery that eventually spread orchards throughout the area.

During the ensuing years, the Camas Prairie settlers began to thrive. The rich prairie soil and grasses provided good crops and good pasture for cattle. Mining camps in the nearby mountains created a market for meat and crops. By 1866, Camas Prairie held a population of approximately seventy-five people; by 1870, that number had nearly doubled and the area held two small schools. In 1876, the local Grange built a flour mill and a grange hall on the prairie's eastern edge, and the town of Grangeville began to grow up around it.⁵

In the spring of each year, the Camas Prairie settlers shared the area with the Nez Perce for periods of up to six weeks while Nez Perce camped there and the women dug camas roots, a staple of their diet. The camas lilies turned sections of the prairie blue while they were in bloom, and at the height of the season, a woman could harvest as many as fifty pounds of the protein-rich roots in a day. Some of the settlers developed congenial relationships with the Nez Perce; Sarah Arams, for example, often invited people from the bands to eat at her home.⁶ The largely peaceful coexistence that the two groups seem to have established came to an end with the 1877 Tolo Lake encampment and the outbreak of the Nez Perce War.

Tolo Lake and the Prelude to the Nez Perce War

After resigning themselves to the move to the reservation, the leaders of the non-treaty Nez Perce traveled to the Lapwai Agency with General Howard and decided on locations to settle their people. Howard informed the bands they had thirty days to move to their new homes, a deadline that caused particular hardship for Chief Joseph's Wallowa people. The band had cattle and horses scattered over a wide area, and moving east to the reservation meant fording rivers swollen from spring run-off. Government officials were unsympathetic to their requests for yet another delay. They believed that an April move, as originally requested, would have allowed them to cross at low water. The Nez Perce reluctantly rounded up as much stock as they could, packed up their camps, and forded the Snake River in late May. Although no lives were lost, numbers of cattle and horses were swept away and some possessions destroyed in the crossings. The band decided to leave most of their cattle on the west bank of the Salmon and cross them at a later date.⁷

Once across the Salmon, the Wallawas traveled to join the other non-treaty bands at the traditional campsite near the present-day Tolo Lake. Tolo was a traditional location where the Nez Perce gathered annually in early summer to visit, enjoy races and games, and hold ceremonies and councils. They called the site *Tepahlewam*, Split Rocks or Deep Cuts, probably referring to Rocky Canyon, the rugged basalt canyon which leads from the Camas Prairie via a ravine near the lake to the Salmon River. According to Yellow Wolf, during the annual gatherings, the camp extended across the ravine and onto the area between the canyon and the lake.⁸ In 1877, four bands, including nearly two hundred men and four hundred women and children, accompanied by approximately fifteen hundred horses, settled in for one last camp before the final leg of the move to the reservation. During the encampment, discussions and debate reflected the pressures and tensions of the previous months, the frustration with the changes white settlement had brought to their society, and the pain the people felt at leaving their homeland. The younger men, particularly, began to talk of resisting or exacting revenge. Chief Joseph and other leaders counseled patience and forbearance.⁹ One early account of the 1877 encampment says that tribal elders later recounted the "usual tranquil water" of Tolo Lake "stirred by a fitful breeze" on the night of June 13, which some of them saw as an evil portent.¹⁰ While this phenomenon cannot be verified, the story illustrates the image of Tolo Lake as the site of building tensions.

The accounts of June 13, 1877 vary in details, but generally agree on the major points. A traditional ceremony took place featuring warriors on horseback encircling the camp and proclaiming their accomplishments. An older man in the camp, prompted by jealousy

Tolo Lake

Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho

County and State

or a misstep by one of the young men, challenged *Wah'lit-is* (Shore Ice or Shore Crossing), a young member of White Bird's Band, to demonstrate his warrior prowess by killing the man who had shot *Wah'lit-is'* father. The incident had occurred three years earlier, when the father had accused settler Lawrence Ott of usurping some of his land. In the heat of the argument, Ott shot the Nez Perce. Before he died, *Wah'lit-is'* father asked his son not to seek revenge, and Ott was not called to account by the settlers' legal system. Now, with tension and frustration mounting among his peers, and feeling ridiculed by an elder, the young man decided to take action.¹¹

Wah'lit-is enlisted the help of *Sarp-sis llp-pilp* (Red Moccasin Tops), and they asked *Wah'lit-is'* teenaged nephew, *Wet-yet-mas Wa-hy-akt* (Swan Necklace), to come with them to hold the horses, perhaps not informing him of their intentions. The three proceeded south to the valley of White Bird Creek. They stopped briefly at settler J. J. Manuel's ranch and then at a store owned by Harry Mason, where they unsuccessfully tried to trade one of their horses for a rifle. After leaving Mason's store, the three men crossed the Salmon River and searched Ott's ranch but could not find him. Determined by this time to exact revenge from someone, the men decided to travel south to the home of Richard Devine, a settler who was believed to have killed a Nez Perce. On their way to the Devine place, the Nez Perce stopped briefly at the Charles P. Cone ranch where they bought food, and at the Jurden Henry Elfers place on the banks of John Day Creek. Elfers, a German immigrant, operated a successful ranch, dairy operation, and way station. He had served, however, on a council of arbitration that exonerated a local man who had been accused of a crime against a Nez Perce. Yet the young men who stopped at his ranch that evening did not appear threatening. They told Mrs. Elfers they were out hunting lost stock, and after she explained she had not seen any, they went on their way.¹²

Late that night, the group reached Richard Devine's home, entered his cabin, and used his own gun to kill him. Then they decided to return to Jurden Henry Elfers home, perhaps attracted by his fine horses. On the morning of June 14, 1877, the young men hid on a path to a plateau approximately two hundred yards southwest of Elfers' buildings. Elfers, in the meantime, dispatched his nephew Henry "Harry" Burn Beckridge and a hired hand, Robert Bland, to the grazing field on the plateau with the dairy herd. Shortly afterwards, Elfers followed, planning to cut some hay. As each of the men rode past the hiding place, he was shot and killed. The Nez Perce took some of Elfers' horses and stole a rifle and ammunition. Catherine Elfers, busy working in an outbuilding near the rushing John Day Creek, heard no gunshots. She saw the Nez Perce leaving the property but was not aware of the theft of horses and the weapon. A man named Whitfield who was hunting in the area found the bodies and traveled two miles up John Day Creek to enlist the help of Norman Gould, who ran a sawmill for the Elfers. In the meantime, a prospector named Victor saw the gunsmoke and gathered some men to go to the site. After seeing the bodies, they went to the Elfers ranch, but Mrs. Elfers refused to believe her husband had been killed. Her loss became real when Gould brought in the bodies. The men took Mrs. Elfers and her children to stay at a settlement on Slate Creek north of the ranch.¹³

After leaving the Elfers ranch, the three Nez Perce went north toward Slate Creek, avoiding the small settlement there. Encountering Charles Cone, who had been friendly with the Nez Perce, they told him they were now at war with the settlers, and he began to warn people in the surrounding area. They next met Samuel Benedict who had engaged in a previous altercation with *Sarp-sis llp-pilp*. The Nez Perce shot and wounded Benedict and then returned to the camp at Tolo Lake. There, *Wet-yet-mas Wa-hy-akt*, mounted on one of Elfers' horses, entered in advance of the others to spread the word of the killings. *He-mene Mox-mox* (Yellow Wolf), a young Nez Perce who later related his experiences during the war, recalled that someone told the chiefs who were present that they could now stop debating whether or not to resist the military, because war had started. Other eager young men quickly joined the three original raiders and the newly formed war party departed to continue the raid.¹⁴

Joseph and *Ollokot* were not in the camp when the young men arrived, but other leaders quickly converged, most of them arguing on the side of patience to see if matters could be settled peaceably. They did, however, decide to leave the camp. When Joseph and *Ollokot* returned, they tried to convince the people to stay in the camp and address the situation. However, all the Nez Perce, except for the Wallowa band, made a hasty departure to what they hoped would be safer territory. No Wallowa band members had been involved in the raids. The next day, Joseph and *Ollokot*, recognizing the threat created by the young warriors' actions, decided to join them at a new campsite on Cottonwood Creek in White Bird Canyon.¹⁵

The Nez Perce War

The now expanded group of Nez Perce warriors accelerated the raids on the settlers and intensified the level of violence. Several settlers were killed and others were injured. One woman and her baby disappeared and were never seen again. The warriors destroyed fields and structures and killed livestock as they swept through the countryside. Survivors of the raids fled to the towns of Grangeville and Mount Idaho. News of the outbreak reached General Howard, who was at Fort Lapwai awaiting the arrival of the non-treaty Nez Perce. Howard sent Captain David Perry and 103 soldiers to the aid of the settlers in Mount Idaho. When he arrived there, Perry

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

learned that a large group of Nez Perce had been seen moving toward White Bird Canyon. At the urging of the citizens, Perry and his troops, joined by eleven local volunteers, advanced to the canyon. There, on June 17, 1877, they engaged the Indians in the first battle of the Nez Perce War--the battle of White Bird Canyon--and lost. Thirty-three soldiers were killed in the fight. The Nez Perce suffered no losses. As Perry's troops retreated, the Nez Perce chased them nearly back to Mount Idaho.¹⁶

The Battle of White Bird Canyon shocked the Army. Historian Robert M. Utley stated that "the Nez Perces had demonstrated a leadership, discipline, and tactical skill that, added to the fighting qualities of the individual warriors, routed a superior force of regular soldiers."¹⁷ The outcome of the fight helped build the reputation of the Nez Perce as superior warriors. Over the next three and one-half months, the Nez Perce bands, under Joseph and other leaders, continued to resist federal policy and their military pursuers. The military chased the Nez Perce across the Bitterroot Mountains, south through the Bitterroot Valley, west into Big Hole, south into eastern Idaho Territory and Wyoming Territory (what is now Yellowstone National Park), and north into Montana Territory, where the Indians made one last stand approximately 40 miles from the Canadian border. Some of the Nez Perce managed to escape to Canada; others were killed in the final battle. On October 5, 1877, Chief Joseph surrendered along with about 398 men, women and children; the Army captured more than 1500 Nez Perce horses.¹⁸

The 1877 Nez Perce War, one of the last major nineteenth-century Indian wars, deeply affected the American consciousness. The courage, resiliency, organization, and skills of the Nez Perce, recognized even by those who fought and eventually defeated them, made an impression on the American public. The members of that public, for the first time, were able to follow the daily course of a western war in the newspapers through the use of telegraphed messages. By July 1877, urban newspapers, including the *Sacramento Union Record*, the *New York Herald*, and, particularly the *New York Times*, were not only reporting the war but also criticizing the government's policies that had fostered it and expressing admiration of Chief Joseph and his people. Some western newspapers that originally had been solidly on the side of the military began to express similar sentiments. Historian Larry Cebula wrote, "This open admiration of Indians engaged in a war with the United States was unprecedented in the annals of frontier journalism."¹⁹ The dramatic episode captured the imagination of American citizens and brought to their attention the government's treatment of Native Americans as well as weaknesses in the military's ability to confront such skillful warriors.

Naming of Tolo Lake

During the first days of the war, about sixty-five settlers, including women and children, took refuge at the settlement on Slate Creek, south of the Indians' campsite. According to some accounts, a Nez Perce woman named *Tule-kals Chik-chamit* or *Aleb-Lemot* (Tolo or Too-lah) who was among them volunteered to ride to the mining camp of Florence, twenty-six miles away over a mountain range, and returned with well-armed miners.²⁰ Whether the lake was named for this woman is unknown. An 1891 newspaper story noted that the lake was stocked with carp by the state and referred to the site simply as "the Lake." A 1943 newspaper story, however, referred to the site as Tolo Lake.²¹

The principal events of the Nez Perce War include:

Salmon River Conflicts, June 14, 1877. Three Nez Perce warriors, *Wah 'lit-is*, *Sarp-sis llp-pilp* and *Wet-yet-mas Wa-hy-akt*, killed Richard Devine, Jurden Henry Elfers, Henry Beckrodge and Robert Bland, and shot and wounded Samuel Benedict. Upon returning to the Nez Perce camp, they announced that war had begun. Other attacks on settlers followed.

White Bird Battle, June 17, 1877. Military troops engaged the Nez Perce in the first battle of the Nez Perce War. Captain David Perry and his troops, along with a few local volunteers, advanced into the White Bird Canyon where they were soundly defeated. After the loss of 33 soldiers, Perry was forced to retreat back to Mount Idaho.

Looking Glass Village Attack, July 1, 1877. Captain Stephen G. Whipple, with cavalry troops and volunteers, attacked and destroyed Looking Glass's camp on the Clearwater River. Looking Glass had remained neutral up to this time, but joined the warring Nez Perce after the attack.

Cottonwood Fights, July 2-5, 1877. The Nez Perce fought briefly with Whipple and some volunteers in the Cottonwood area and killed all ten soldiers in a detachment shortly before joining Looking Glass at the mouth of Cottonwood Creek.

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Clearwater Battle, July 11-12, 1877. General Howard and his men attacked a village camped east of the Clearwater River, but the Nez Perce were warned of his approach and met him in battle. On the second day, the Indians were forced to retreat to the north.

Weippe Prairie, July 17, 1877. The Nez Perce halted here to discuss how to proceed. After deciding to cross the Bitterroot Mountains into Montana Territory, where they might find refuge with friendly tribes, they began moving east on the rugged Lolo Trail.

Escape along the Lolo Trail, late July, 1877. Over 750 Nez Perce, including women and children, and some fifteen hundred horses traveled along the Lolo Trail. The sizable group moved swiftly to evade the military troops.

Fort Fizzle, July 25-28, 1877. Captain Charles C. Rawn, with troops and volunteers, built log fortifications at a site along the Lolo Trail to prevent the Nez Perce from entering the Bitterroot Valley. The Indians skirted the barricade and emerged into the Bitterroot Valley.

Big Hole Battle, August 9-10, 1877. Once in the Valley, the Nez Perce stopped to rest and recover from the arduous trek over Lolo Trail. Colonel John Gibbon and parts of the 7th Infantry attacked them and quickly took the village. The warriors forced the soldiers to retreat, however, and remained under siege while the main body of the Nez Perce moved to the south and east. About ninety Nez Perce were killed, many of them women and children.

Camas Fields, August 20, 1877. As Howard pursued the Nez Perce toward Yellowstone National Park, warriors stole 150 mules from his camp at Camas Fields near Henry's Lake. In an attempt to recover the mules, troops engaged the Indians and were forced to retreat.

Canyon Creek, September 13, 1877. Colonel Samuel Sturgis and 7th Cavalry troops attacked warriors at Canyon Creek near present-day Billings, Montana. Nez Perce held off the cavalry while the main body escaped northward.

Bear's Paw, September 30, October 1-5, 1877. As the end of September approached, the Nez Perce drew close to the Canadian border; they hoped to escape into Canada where they could be safely beyond the jurisdiction of the U. S. military. General Nelson A. Miles, with companies of infantry and cavalry, was marching to intercept them. On September 29, the Nez Perce camped in a valley in the northern Bear Paw Mountains. The next day, Miles and his troops moved into the camp. Nez Perce warriors immediately took positions and killed many officers, but also suffered the loss of several leaders. Their prospects began to dim. On October 1, Chief Joseph met with General Miles under a flag of truce; Looking Glass and White Bird refused to participate, and Looking Glass was subsequently killed. After a five-day siege, during which Howard arrived with his troops, Joseph met again with Miles and Howard and was promised that he and his people could return to the Idaho reservation in the spring. On October 5, Joseph and about four hundred of the people, including about one hundred warriors, surrendered. General Howard later reported that Joseph's message of surrender ended with a phrase that translated roughly to "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever." Years later, *He-mene Mox-mox* (Yellow Wolf) insisted that the Nez Perce were not captured, and that the agreement made by Joseph and the others was intended to end a stalemate.²²

Some of the Nez Perce, including *He-mene Mox-mox*, managed to escape to Canada during the siege or immediately after the surrender. The promise Miles and Howard made to Chief Joseph was not kept. Instead, the Nez Perce who surrendered were held briefly at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and then placed on a reservation in present-day Oklahoma. In 1884, Joseph won permission to return to the Northwest with his people. He and his band were placed on the Colville Reservation in Washington; the bands that had been led by Looking Glass and White Bird were allowed to return to the Lapwai Reservation. Joseph never stopped trying to convince officials to allow him to return to his homeland in eastern Oregon, but he was unsuccessful. He died on the Colville Reservation in 1904.²³

Recognition of Nez Perce War Sites

The history of the Nez Perce and the 1877 War are recognized by the Nez Perce National Trail, established in 1986 under the 1968 National Trails System Act. The Trail extends from Wallowa Lake in Oregon to the Bear Paw Battlefield in Northern Montana, tracing the route the Nez Perce used to flee their ancestral lands. The Nez Perce National Historical Park was created in 1965 and now consists of forty sites in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. Approximately a dozen of these sites are directly related to the Nez Perce War, including the site of Fort Lapwai, the White Bird Battlefield, the site of the Cottonwood fights, the Clearwater Battlefield, Weippe Prairie, the Lolo Trail, the Camas Meadows site, the Big Hole Battlefield, the Canyon Creek site and the Bear Paw

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Battlefield. In addition, the Bear Paw Battlefield, Camas Meadows, Weippe Prairie and the Lolo Trail are National Historic Landmarks. The Big Hole Battlefield is also a National Battlefield.²⁴

Summary of Significance

Tolo Lake is significant as the site where events occurred that led to the outbreak of the Nez Perce War of 1877. A traditional area for the Nez Perce as they passed from their winter to summer camps, the lake was the site of the last encampment before the non-treaty Nez Perce succumbed to the pressure to leave their ancestral homelands and move onto the reservation. The tensions and emotions engendered by the transition broke out in the warriors' ceremony at the camp. Three young men left the camp, raided and killed settlers and returned to the Tolo Lake camp riding one of the victim's horses to announce the outbreak of war. Tolo Lake and the area immediately surrounding it saw the last relatively peaceful days of the Nez Perce bands before they entered into battle with the army and then fled to the east and the north in their fateful attempt to reach Canada. In the aftermath of the Nez Perce War, the Tolo Lake area was opened to settlement, and in 1890, with Idaho's statehood, the lake became state property.

Endnotes

1. Robert M. Utley, *Frontier Regulars: The United States Army and the Indian, 1866-1890* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1973), p. 2-3. *Frontier Regulars* and Robert M. Utley, *Frontiersmen In Blue: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865* (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1967) provide a complete discussion of the Indian Wars in the second half of the nineteenth century.
2. Utley, *Frontier Regulars*, pp. 3-8, 9, 95-96.
3. Jerome A. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer, 1877: The U. S. Army and the Nee-Me-Poo Crisis* (Helena, Montana: Montana Historical Society Press), pp. 1-24, John D. McDermott, *Forlorn Hope: The Battle of White Bird Canyon and the Beginning of the Nez Perce War* (Boise, Idaho: Idaho State Historical Society, 1978), xiii, Utley, *Frontiersman in Blue*, pp. 179-180, 188, 198-199. Elliot West, *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), discusses the Nez Perce interactions with Lewis and Clark, pp. 20-23, and the problematic executive order and its ramifications, pp. 107-108.
4. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer, 1877*, pp. 20-23, 29, McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, p. xv; Lucullus Virgil McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf: His Own Story* (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1940), pp. 34-41. West, *The Last Indian War*, pp. 115-120.
5. Kristi M. Youngdahl, *The Arams of Idaho: Pioneers of Camas Prairie and Joseph Plains* (Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1995), pp. 2-10.
6. Youngdahl, *The Arams of Idaho*, p. 5; West, *The Last Indian War*, p. 9.
7. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer, 1877*, pp. 22-23, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., *The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1965; 1997 edition), pp. 507-511, McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf*, pp. 41-42.
8. McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf, His Own Story*, Appendix 1, p. 52.
9. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer*, pp. 28-29.
10. Royal Ross Arnold, *Indian Wars of Idaho* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers Ltd., 1932), pp. 107-108.

Tolo Lake

Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho

County and State

11. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer*, p. 30, Josephy, *The Nez Perce Indians*, pp. 512-513, McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, pp. 3-4. West, *The Last Indian War*, pp. 123-126 describes the incident; Will Cave, *Nez Perce War of 1877 and the Battle of the Big Hole* (Missoula, Montana: Missoulian, n.d.), n.p. gives another version.
12. McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, pp. 5-8.
13. Henderson, John M., William S. Shiach, and Harry B. Averill, *An Illustrated History of North Idaho: Embracing Nez Percés, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone counties, State of Idaho* (Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903), p. 451; Donna Turnipsced, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Elfers, Jurden Henry, Barn, August 2, 2001, pp. 12-13; McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, pp. 6-7; Mark H. Brown, *Flight of the Nez Perce* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1967), pp. 59, 102-103. In his account to Lucullus McWhorter, Yellow Wolf stated that the three young Nez Perce "now killed another man who had badly treated the Indians. They took a good horse belonging to him and returned home." McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf*, pp. 44-45. The reference to the horse suggests Yellow Wolf is referring to Jurden Henry Elfers; he does not mention the deaths of Devine, Beckrodge, or Bland.
14. McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, pp. 8-9.
15. McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, pp. 10-11 and McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf*, p. 45.
16. McDermott, *Forlorn Hope*, pp. 15-24, Greene, *Nez Perce Summer 1877*, pp. 26, 33-43 and McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf*, pp. 54-64. West, *The Last Indian War*, pp. 126-130, gives a detailed description of the events of the raids; Youngdahl, *The Arams of Idaho*, recalls that family's recollections of the events, pp. 16-22.
17. Utey, *Frontier Regulars*, p. 301.
18. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer* and West, *The Last Indian War* discuss in detail the events of the Nez Perce War. J. Diane Pearson, *The Nez Percés in the Indian Territory: Nimiipuu Survival* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008), pp. 49-53, treats the surrender at Bear's Paw.
19. Larry Cebula, "Filthy Savages and Red Napoleons: Newspapers and the Nez Perce War," *Pacific Northwest Forum* 6, Summer/Fall 1993, p. 10.
20. Robert G. Bailey, *River of No Return (The Great Salmon River of Idaho): A Century of Central Idaho and Eastern Washington History and Development, Together with the Wars, Customs, Myths, and Legends of the Nez Perce Indians* (Lewiston, Idaho: R. G. Bailey Printing Company, 1935-1947), pp. 252-255; Greene, *Nez Perce Summer*, p. 384, n 8.
21. Sister Mary Alfreda Eisensohn, *Pioneer Days in Idaho County*, Vol. II (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd, 1951), pp. 385-387.
22. Julin, "Elfers, Jurden Henry, Barn and Field," pp. 8/7-9, original sources: "Utey, *Frontier Regulars*, pp. 296-319 summarizes the events of the Nez Perce War. Greene, *Nez Perce Summer*, offers a full treatment of the events of the war and map p. 9 traces the route of the Nez Perce flight. Yellow Wolf's account is recorded in McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf*, pp. 70-226. The quote attributed to Chief Joseph is repeated in Utey, *Frontier Regulars*, p. 314; Greene says Joseph's words translated to "From where the sun now stands, forever and ever, I will never fight again," Greene, *Nez Perce Summer*, p. 312. West, *The Last Indian War* also provides a full account of the conflict.
23. Julin, "Elfers, Jurden Henry, Barn and Field," p. 8/9, original sources Utey, *Frontier Regulars*, pp. 314-315 and McWhorter, *Yellow Wolf*, pp. 229-237.
24. "Nez Perce Nee-Me-Poo National Historic Trail," <http://www.fs.fed.us.npnht>; "Nez Perce National Historic Park," <http://www.nps.gov/nepe>, accessed April 29,

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Arnold, Royal Ross. *Indian Wars of Idaho*. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers Ltd., 1932.
- Bailey, Robert G. *River of No Return (The Great Salmon River of Idaho): A Century of central Idaho and Eastern Washington History and Development, Together with the Wars, customs, Myths and Legends of the Nez Perce Indians*. Lewiston, Idaho: R. G. Bailey Printing Company, 1935-1947.
- Brown, Mark H. *Flight of the Nez Perce*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1967.
- Cave, Will. *Nez Perce War of 1877 and the Battle of the Big Hole*. Missoula, Montana: *Missoulian*, n.d.
- Cebula, Larry. "Filthy Savages and Red Napolcons: Newspapers and the Nez Perce War." *Pacific Northwest Forum* 6 Summer/Fall 1993.
- Eisensohn, Sister Mary Alfreda. *Pioneer Days in Idaho County*. II. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1951.
- Henderson, John M. William S. Shiach, Harry B. Averill. *An Illustrated History of North Idaho: Embracing Nez Perce, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, State of Idaho*. Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903.
- Greene, Jerome A. *Nez Perce Summer 1877: The U. S. Army and the Nee-me-poo Crisis*. Helena, Montana: Montana Historical Society Press.
- Joseph, Alvin M., Jr. *The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1965. 1997 edition.
- Julin, Suzanne. "Elfers, Jurden Henry, Barn and Field." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, August 25, 2005.
- McDermott, John D. *Forlorn Hope: The Battle of White Bird Canyon and the Beginning of the Nez Perce War*. Boise, Idaho: Idaho State Historical Society, 1978.
- McWhorter, Lucullus Virgil. *Yellow Wolf: His Own Story*. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1940.
- "Nez Perce National Historic Park." I
- "Nez Perce Nee-Me-Poo National Historic Trail. <http://www.fs.fed.us.npnht>.
- Pearson, J. Diane. *The Nez Percés in the Indian Territory: Nimiipuu Survival*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2008.
- Turnipseed, Donna. "Elfers, Jurden Henry, Barn." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. August 2, 2001.
- Utley, Robert M. *Frontier Regulars: The United States Army and the Indian*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1973.
- _____. *Frontiersmen in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1967.
- West, Elliot. *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Youngdahl, Kristi M. *The Arams of Idaho: Pioneers of Camas Prairie and Joseph Plains*. Moscow: University of Idaho P

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Nez Perce National Historical Park

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 206 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>11</u>	<u>558670</u>	<u>5085200</u>	E	<u>11</u>	<u>558845</u>	<u>5084540</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>11</u>	<u>559615</u>	<u>5085205</u>	F	<u>11</u>	<u>558530</u>	<u>5084885</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>11</u>	<u>559650</u>	<u>5084895</u>				
	Zone	Easting	Northing				
D	<u>11</u>	<u>559240</u>	<u>5084495</u>				
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary begins at the northeast corner of Section 30 of T 30 N, R 2 E, and continues south along the 3165 contour line, which follows the rim of Rocky Canyon. The boundary continues along an arch to the southeast to the point where the contour lines meets Telcher Creek, then follows the north side of the Creek until the point where the Creek turns east. Thense, the boundary line turns north to the north section line of Section 29, of T 30 N, R 2 E, then turns west and follows the section line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The best description of the Nez Perce campsite at Tolo Lake is in John McWhorter, *Yellow Bird His Own Story*. Yellow Bird stated that at the annual gatherings the camp extended across the ravine and onto the area between the canyon and the lake. The boundary includes the lake, the ravine, and a large enough area around the lake to accommodate the approximately six hundred Nez Perce camped there in June, 1877.

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin and Suzi Pengilly, Idaho SHPO Historian
organization Suzanne Julin, Public Historian date May 9, 2010
street & number 1001 E. Broadway, Stop 2, PMB 608 telephone 406-544-8606
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59802
e-mail sjulin@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional Items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Photographs:

Name of Property: Tolo Lake

City or Vicinity: Vicinity of Grangeville, Idaho

County: Idaho County

State: Idaho

Photographer: Suzanne Julin

Date Photographed: August 20, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to east
2 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to east
3 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to south
4 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to southwest
5 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to northwest
6 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to northeast
7 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to west (Rocky Canyon)
8 of 8	Tolo Lake and Camp	View to southwest (Rocky Canyon Ravine)

Property Owners:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See attached

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Tolo Lake
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Property Owners:

Raymond E. Johnston
194 Johnston Road
Grangeville, ID 83530

Richard H. Hauger, Jr.
255 Market Rd.
Grangeville, ID 83530

Joe L. Sherwin
214 Schoolhouse Ln.
Grangeville, ID 83530

State of Idaho
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
(Cal Groen, Director)
PO Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

①

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Tolo Lake
Grangeville, Idaho County,
Idaho
Grangeville West Quad

UTM = NAD 83

A: 558670 / 5085200

B: 559615 / 5085205

C: 559650 / 5084895

D: 559240 / 5084495

E: 558845 / 5084540

F: 558530 / 5084885



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2011

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

ISHS FISCAL OFFICE

PROPERTY Tolo Lake
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IDAHO, Idaho

DATE RECEIVED: 12/23/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/20/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/04/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/07/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001200

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Tolo Lake site is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/Native American and Military history. Tolo Lake, a traditional camping and resource gathering location for the Nez Perce (Nimiipuu), was in the summer of 1877 the site of a momentous gathering of non-treaty Nez Perce bands prior to their forced relocation onto newly established reservations in north-central Idaho. While encamped at Tolo Lake members of the various bands, unhappy with Native American treatment at the hands of government forces and local settlers, set out on a series of reprisal killings. These actions [see: *Juren Henry Elfers Barn and Field (NR)*] precipitated the outbreak of full hostilities between the government and the non-treaty Nez Perce bands. The Tolo Lake site is directly connected with events associated with the broad patterns of U.S. Indian policy in the West during the late nineteenth century. The local events that occurred at the lake and adjoining lands would play out on a national stage as part of the last and perhaps most dramatic conflict between Native American society and government/military policy in the period—the Nez Perce War. [The site, an affiliated component of the Nez Perce National Historical Park, is not owned by the National Park Service. The boundaries selected were determined by a study of the extant site and may not correspond to those identified by the park's 1997 General Management Plan.]

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Paul B. Lusignea DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE 202.354.2229 DATE 2/7/2011

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2011

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

ISHS FISCAL OFFICE

Section _____ Page _____

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10001200 Date Listed: 2/7/2011

<u>Tolo Lake</u>	<u>Idaho</u>	<u>ID</u>
Property Name	County	State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

	<u>2/7/11</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:

The property location is amended to add a geographical reference and the name of the associated National Park unit: *Tolo Lake Road, Nez Perce National Historical Park (NEPE)*.

Classification:

The Historic Function is amended to add: *Domestic/Camp*
[This reflects the historic use of the property as a temporary Nez Perce encampment in 1877.]

The Resource Count reflects the expansive historic site, including the historic 1877 encampment area as well as the natural, spring-fed lake itself. The previously listed resource references the status of the property as an affiliated (but undocumented) site in the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NEPE). The five archeological sites and trail mentioned in the narrative (page three) are not directly associated with the historic activities of 1877 and are therefore not included in the resource count. Additional investigation may lead to NR documentation and evaluation at a later time. The modern recreational facilities were deemed of insufficient scale to merit classification, but all represent non-historic features of the nominated property.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated boundaries do not necessarily correspond with the boundaries of the site considered by the National Park Service as a component of the 1997 Nez Perce National Historical Park General Management Plan, but reflect a contemporary evaluation of the extant historic landscape.

These clarifications were confirmed with the ID SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)