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To receive an electronic or hard copy of this progress report, or if you have questions about the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, please contact:

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# NEZ PERCE (NEE-ME-POO) National Historic Trail

## MAY 2002 PROGRESS REPORT

### Administrator's Corner:

The 125th Commemoration of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail is giving us an opportunity to share with the public and agency employees the history of the trail this year as we join together with our partners in hosting some very special events.

This year commemorates a significant and tragic event in history. It was on this trail 125 years ago that Chiefs Joseph, Looking Glass, White Bird, and Toolhoolhoolzute and others of the Nez Perce attempted to lead their people to safety from the pursuing whites. The normally peaceful Nez Perce were forced into a fight they did not want.

Composed of bands and villages, the Nez Perce were long known as friends of the whites. They were being forced to a reservation as a result of a treaty signed between the Army and the other Nez Perce Chiefs in 1863 — a treaty to which they had not agreed and with which they refused to comply. In negotiating with the Nez Perce, the Army accepted one of the chiefs as the leader of the entire nation. In reality, the different bands did not recognize any one chief as their leader. Those bands who accepted and signed the treaty are known as “Treaty Nez Perce,” and those who refused as “non-Treaty Nez Perce.”

The flight began in the spring of 1877 and ended in surrender on a cold, wintry day in October — 1,170 miles and many battles later. This episode is regarded by historians as one of the most significant events in the history of the clashes between the Indians and the military in the West.



Trails connect not just land and ecosystems, but people. It's an extraordinary metaphor for what we all need to do among us. This trail is about citizens and volunteers cooperating.



## Administrator's Corner, (continued)

The Lolo Trail system, which runs some 100 miles on the Clearwater National Forest, includes the most well-preserved segments of the two National Historic Trails in the United States: the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (the flight path of the Nez Perce in the 1877 conflict).

It was also the main corridor along which bands of Nez Perce and their ancestors made summer migrations for hunting, gathering, fishing, and trade networking routes. To the Nez Perce the trail is K'useyneisskit (pronounced "Koo-say-nay-iss-kit"). This term means the migration over the road to the plains (in June) to hunt buffalo.

We want to emphasize that the Lolo Trail system is a segment of one of America's oldest travel and trade routes that linked the Columbia Basin people with the northern plains people for thousands of years. Lewis and Clark crossed this travel route in just a matter of days.

We will continue to reap the benefits of this 125th Commemoration for years to come. We hope this Progress Report serves to enhance communication among the many individuals, organizations, and agencies with an interest in the Nez Perce Trail.

On a personal note, I am honored to have been asked to assume the role of Nez Perce National Historic Trail Administrator. The Forest Service has been given an important job in administering this trail, and we do not take it lightly. Though I have been involved with the NPNHT for several years, I look forward to working more closely with all those who share ownership of this truly important NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

If you have questions or comments, or wish to contribute to future issues, please contact us.

Sandi McFarland  
Administrator, Nez Perce National Historic Trail



"We came to that place in the afternoon, towards evening. We stayed that night and next day. Evening came on again, and it was after sundown — not too late — lots of us children were playing. It was below the camp towards the creek that we ... boys played the stick or bone game. They were noisy, having lots of fun, and I was with them. We were only having a good time."

White Bird  
Nez Perce Child



## TRAIL UPDATES:

### NPNHT in the Classroom

The story of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail is an exciting one, filled with examples of history we want to share with students of all ages — including lessons in honesty, leadership, teamwork, discipline, compassion, and courage.

The story of the Nez Perce Trail is filled with examples of everyday classroom lessons in math, science, geography, history, art, music, English, grammar, creative writing,



social sciences, cultural resources, and life skills! The Nez Perce Trail is pleased to announce two new resources for educators. The first is a cross-curriculum Educator's Guide

for students or home schoolers. It's available online at [www.fs.fed.us/npnht/education/](http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/education/)

The second is a Kids' Section on our website. This section includes a coloring book, word games and puzzles, a math game, and other fun activities for kids. While you're having fun here, you can learn a little about the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The Kids' Section is online at [www.fs.fed.us/npnht/kids/](http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/kids/)

One of the pages featured in the kids' section is a collection of plants and animals along the trail. The page includes salmon, appaloosas, coyote, bison, and the camas. Kids can learn a little about each on this page, and small audio files are included for kids to “hear the coyote sing” and “listen to the horse neigh.”



The page also includes links to audio files for kids to find out how to pronounce some of these words, with pronunciations provided courtesy of Merriam-Webster!

We'll be adding to these sections as we further develop the website, and would appreciate your feedback.



"Suddenly a single shot on the extreme left rang out on the clear morning air, followed quickly by several others, and the whole line pushed rapidly forward through the brush. Logan's company being sent in on the run on the extreme right. A heavy fire was at once opened along the whole line of tepees, the startled Indians rushing from them in every direction, and for a few moments no shots were returned."

Colonel John Gibbon  
Commander, 7th Infantry



## NPNHT in the Spotlight:

The two Nez Perce Trail traveling displays have a busy summer schedule. The free-standing 8'x10' display along with the auto tour display and a third display about the 125th Commemoration of the Nez Perce Trail and the NPNHT Foundation appeared at the 7th Annual National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial from April 10-14 in Lewiston, Idaho. The tradeshow included the Trail display along with 55 exhibitors and vendors, and the conference had 450 attendees. Hundreds of area residents attended the Saturday Open in the Vendors Tent.

Other visitors and guests included Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Senator Larry Craig, along with Congressman Butch Otter. The trail was also represented on two workshop panels, one dealing with Sacred Sites and the other with Nez Perce Perspective on the L&C Bicentennial.

The banquet was a perfect setting for recognizing Larry J. Dawson, Forest Supervisor on the Clearwater National Forest, and Samuel N. Penney, Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe, for their combined efforts in working to develop a reward for those responsible for the vandalism of Smoking Place, a sacred site to the Nez Perce along the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark Historic Trails. Although Larry had just arrived on the Clearwater as the new Forest Supervisor, he was personally committed to dealing with this difficult situation that had put the Clearwater in the public's eye. Sam was instrumental in making the public aware of the importance of this historic site — and in contributing to the reward. Both Larry and Samuel were presented a wooden clock with the Nez Perce Trail engraved in the frame as a positive step for both entities to move forward in promoting a healing process in light of the tragic event at Smoking Place.

The conference also provided an opportunity for the NPNHT to testify before Congress on video to educate members of Congress about the NPNHT's administration by the Forest Service, its close relationship to the Lewis and Clark Trail, and the great opportunities with this upcoming bicentennial to work with our partners, communities, Tribes, and schools. It also served to alert them to our challenges in striking a nice balance between inviting the public to visit the trail, while still providing protection and preservation for the many sacred and sensitive sites along the trail.



"Few of us will forget the wail of mingled grief, rage and horror which rose from the camp when the Indians returned to it and recognized their slaughtered warriors, women, and children."

Colonel John Gibbon  
Commander, 7th Infantry



In-who-Lise  
(White Feather)

## NPNHT in the Spotlight (continued)

The next stop for the display was at the Montana Governor's Tourism Conference in West Yellowstone from April 18-20. The display — along with a number of brochures and promotional products — was a big hit with the 515 attendees. The newly acquired promotional products include neon pencils, clic-stick ice rubber grip pens, mouse pads, and travel mugs — all with the NPNHT logo and website address. These items help achieve one of our goals of reaching our audience and continually communicating the importance of the NPNHT.

One of the traveling displays will remain at the Museum of the Yellowstone in West Yellowstone through July. Contact for information about the museum is Alicia Cassell, Director, at (406)646-1100 or [acassell@wyellowstone.com](mailto:acassell@wyellowstone.com)

The second traveling display is at the Lewis and Clark Center at Lolo Hot Springs through May. It will appear at the upcoming Nez Perce Country Symposium on June 13. The Historical Museum at St. Gertrude, in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe and the National Park Service, will sponsor a significant symposium in Cottonwood, Idaho. In addition, the Trail Administrator will serve on a panel discussing Natural Resources and the Trail through time.

The next stop will be in Lewiston, Idaho, for the 4th Annual Lewis & Clark Symposium: "Trails Through Time." From June 20-22 Lewis and Clark State College will be hosting the 4th Annual Lewis & Clark Symposium. "Two Centuries, Two Peoples," the fourth annual symposium of a 7-year project, focuses on the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery in the Land of the Nez Perce. The Trail Administrator will give a presentation on the significance of the two National Historic Trails and the upcoming Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

Next stop is in St. Louis for the "Fair St. Louis" summer event at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and Gateway Arch National Park. The park memorializes the westward expansion of the 1800s. The display will be a part of this commemoration from June 26 through July 8. This year's National Park theme is "Discover Your America; Exploration of America."



The corridor of the Lolo Trail and Lolo Pass contain significant ethnographic, archeological, and historic resources associated with Nez Perce use during buffalo hunts as well as during the Nez Perce War of 1877. The Lolo Trail is about 100 miles long, roughly from Weippe to beyond Lolo Pass on the Idaho/Montana border.

The Lolo Trail is a national historic landmark.

It encompasses the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.



## Lolo Pass

We will resume construction as soon as the snow and weather permit. The contractor is currently constructing the log structures (visitor center and warming hut) off-site and will reassemble them on the permanent foundations as soon as weather permits. All roads and parking areas were roughed in last year.



Final grading, aggregate subgrade, and asphalt pavement will be completed during this construction season. Most sewage and water line work was completed last season. Telephone, power, and final work on other utilities will be completed in conjunction with the finalization of the roads. The final stage of the project will be landscaping work and installation of interpretation. That work is planned for this fall, with a final completion of the contract scheduled for late October depending on weather. We anticipate a grand opening either late fall or early spring.

Diana Jones, Landscape Architect  
Clearwater National Forest



THE HISTORIC  
AND CULTURAL  
LANDSCAPE  
REMAINS UNCHANGED  
when the  
Bicentennial  
is over



Rocky Ridge Lake  
along the Nez Perce Trail on  
Lolo Trail Segment,  
Clearwater National Forest

## LOLO TRAIL

In 2001 the Clearwater National Forest completed the last of the inventory work under contract for the Lolo Trail. This contract involved field checking a few sites and areas that were not accessible in 2000 because of the fire season. This effort completed the inventory of the Forest Service portion of the Lolo Trail in Idaho.

The survey focused on the Lewis and Clark portion of the Lolo Trail, so not all of the Nez Perce Trail has been surveyed. The survey revealed 80 sites along the Lewis and Clark portion of the Lolo Trail, and more than 100 isolated artifacts and features. Most of the sites show a considerable level of damage that has occurred in the last seven to ten years because of use, collection, looting, erosion, and other activities.

Forest Archaeologist Jeff Fee and Steve Stoddard, Archaeologist, spent much of their field season looking specifically at the proposed facilities to ensure that campsites, parking areas, portals and the like do not cause adverse effects to heritage resources. The report for that work is still being prepared.

The Forest has worked with the Nez Perce National Historical Park to begin development of the monitoring plan to ensure resource protection during the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. The Forest discovered and investigated damage to Smoking Place, and worked with the Nez Perce Tribe, National Park Service, U.S. Attorney Office, and others to conduct an investigation, discuss future protection, and plan for Smoking Place rehabilitation.

In 2002 we are planning an historic trails workshop to develop management approaches for historic trails on the Clearwater National Forest. We're working with Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, and other Forests to define the issues and develop guidelines.

We are beginning development of facilities on the Lolo Trail designed to channel use away from critical resources. We will be monitoring and working with the recreation crews to ensure that sites are protected. This year we will be finishing up reports for the Lolo Trail Resource Protection and Lolo Trail Survey.



"You are volunteers; you come to fight us. I could kill you if I wanted to, but I do not. You can go to your homes. I give you my word of honor that I will harm nobody."

~ Looking Glass



## LOLO TRAIL (continued)

We will continue to investigate the vandalism at Smoking Place. The year also included presentations to the Washington Office, congressional staffers, and Under Secretary Mark Rey concerning efforts under way to prepare for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial on the Clearwater National Forest to raise awareness of the Forest's needs and objectives during this event.

Mark Hill, Zone Archaeologist  
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

## TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND:



The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is working with interested parties to protect the Canyon Creek Battle Site. It's north of Laurel, Montana, where the U.S. Army and the Nez Perce engaged in several skirmishes on September 13, 1877.

The TPL is applying for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The funding request is for the development of a preservation plan that will lead to the protection of the existing landscape and allow for a meaningful interpretive experience of the historic events. The Protection Strategy will be developed to preserve and maximize the interpretive experience of visitors to the area, focusing on protection of the landscape viewshed where the battle engagement took place. It will identify key locations for interpretation, appropriate methods of protection, and priorities for protection. Implementation of the protection strategy will follow, using other financial resources for acquisition of easements and/or development rights.

For more information contact:  
Robert Rasmussen at (406)443-4017 or [Robert.Rasmussen@tpl.org](mailto:Robert.Rasmussen@tpl.org)





Big Hole National Battlefield is integrating new trail signs to accompany the Battlefield's trail guide system as part of the 125th Commemoration of the Nez Perce War of 1877.



Howitzer Capture Site  
Big Hole Battlefield

## BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

The Battlefield is working with the Forest Service on a new display and sales map of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The new map will focus on the mountainous and rugged terrain that the Nez Perce traveled, and on the historic features of the 1877 war. The project is scheduled for completion this summer. When the draft version is complete in May, the agencies will work with all three bands of Nez Perce for review and input to complete the map. The Battlefield hopes to have a finished product hanging in the Visitor Center by August 9.



A second long-term project is the construction of a trail from the Battlefield to Gibbons Pass. The trail will accommodate hikers and horse users with little use of existing roads. The project is another collaboration between the Battlefield and the Forest Service. The EIS is done, and scouting of the trail will begin this summer. This will provide approximately 27 miles of trail from the Battlefield all the way to the east fork of the Bitterroot in Sula, Montana.

Plans are well under way for the Battlefield's summer program, with a focus on the 125th Anniversary of the War. A highlight will be the Aubrey Haines Lectures Series on a variety of topics related to the war. Speakers are scheduled at the Battlefield and along the trail. The Battlefield is working with the Nez Perce National Historical Park and Yellowstone National Park to provide a holistic experience for visitors who want to learn about the history from multiple perspectives. The Battlefield is planning an evening descendant picnic and illuminare walk on August 9 down in the Battlefield to honor the casualties of the battle.



Working with the community of Wisdom, the Legion Park will set aside camping for those who want to spend the night to participate in the traditional pipe and empty saddle ceremony on August 10. A complete agenda will be established and printed in early May. Contact the Battlefield for a brochure with a listing of events or check out the Battlefield's website at [www.nps.gov/biho](http://www.nps.gov/biho)

Timothy J. Fisher, Park Ranger



The Nimiípuu have always appreciated great beauty and take great care in every detail of their appearance and cleanliness. Not only was traditional clothing and ornamentation meant to be pleasing for both the wearer and observer, but it also symbolized an expression of ones power, rank, or other indication of individual identity.

~ from the  
[Lifelong Learning Online site](#)



[Angel Sabotta](#)

## WEB NOTES:

### LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE

The Lewis and Clark Rediscovery Project website is up and running, and it includes more than 5½ hours of interviews with Nez Perce tribal members. Multi-media files feature both video and audio, and interviewed tribal members include Samuel N. Penney, Chairman, Carla HighEagle, Clifford Allen, and many more. They are excellent resources for people who want more information about the Nez Perce.

The Lifelong Learning Online site is at  
[www.l3-lewisandclark.com](http://www.l3-lewisandclark.com)

### NEW NPNHT WEBSITE:

We have a brand new website! The new and improved online content is a great tool for spreading the word about the Trail. Some of the new features include:

- TRAIL PLANS
- KIDS' PAGES
- VIRTUAL TOUR
- PUBLICATIONS
- PROMOTIONAL AIDS
- EVENTS
- LINKS

Traffic to the website has risen steadily over the last few months, and it illustrates the value of online content in reaching a broad audience. From April 14 through April 30 the website handled 6,113 page views, with an average of 339 per day. Nearly 2,400 individual visits were logged, with an average of 131 per day over that period. While the majority of visitors have been logging on from the U.S. and Canada, we've also had visitors from Austria, Australia, the U.K., Taiwan, Croatia, Iceland, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Denmark.

Check it out at [www.fs.fed.us/npnht](http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht)



#### Improving Protection:

After the vandalism at Smoking Place, a working group formed to improve protection for heritage resources. Members included the Nez Perce Tribe, Forest Service, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail Foundation, and National Park Service.

#### Protection Recommendations:

- \* Awareness
- \* Promote locally the appreciation of priceless heritage resources
- \* Emphasize the importance of such sites to all people.
- \* Pursue the culprits
- \* Check, recheck, and report
- \* Expand site monitoring and oversight of visitation.
- \* Use services of volunteer hosts and stewards to monitor visitor activities and impacts.
- \* Post heritage resources protection messages at entrances to the historic corridor and near trailheads.

## CRIME and PUNISHMENT:

### Vandalism at Smoking Place

Last September, vandals damaged rock cairns at Smoking Place along the Lolo Trail. Many condemned the senseless act, including the Nez Perce Tribe, local chambers of commerce, outfitters, and the Lewis and Clark Heritage foundation.

The Nez Perce people hold this site sacred. Two hundred years ago, on their return trip, Lewis and Clark visited Smoking Place at the urging of the Nez Perce Guides.

**\$4,000 REWARD**

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for destruction of rock cairns at Smoking Place in September 2001.

Smoking Place is a sacred site to the Nez Perce Tribe and is located along the Lolo Motorway in the Clearwater National Forest

Reward is being offered by:  
Nez Perce Tribe  
Clearwater National Forest  
National Park Service  
Western Spirit Cycling

WESTERN SPIRIT

Individuals with information should contact John Preston of the Clearwater National Forest at (208) 476-4541.

Protecting Cultural Resources Takes All of Us

A reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the vandalism. Forest Service law enforcement officers continue their investigation.



The village was quickly evacuated; most of the people fled up the Clearwater River. Some were wounded. A woman and her baby drowned trying to escape across the river on horseback. The soldiers left, having first burned two tipis, battered and smashed the cooking utensils, trampled the gardens, run off the milk cows and many head of horses. The people returned to their ravished village, salvaged what they could, and moved over to the South Fork of the Clearwater to join the non-treaty bands.



The destruction of Looking Glass Village. Peet-Kehk-Yoot (attacked)

## MEETINGS & COMMEMORATIONS:

### Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation ~ 2002 ANNUAL MEETING

**Friday, June 14, 2002**  
**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm.**  
**Nez Perce Reservation, Idaho**

This is an eventful year for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, as we are commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Nez Perce War of 1877. We will be meeting to discuss the future of our organization and future projects; we'll plan celebrations and events, and we'll hold elections for officers and board members. From June 14-16 the Chief Joseph and Warriors Powwow will be held at the Pi-nee-waus building in Lapwai, Idaho. On June 17 a memorial service will be held at the White Bird Battlefield in north-central Idaho, commemorating the 125th anniversary of one of the first battles of the Nez Perce War of 1877.

For further information and updates, contact:

Brian McCormack (208)798-3249 [weetes@aol.com](mailto:weetes@aol.com)

Nick Hudson (435)655-3210 [nhnezperctrail@aol.com](mailto:nhnezperctrail@aol.com)

### Nez Perce War of 1877 MEMORIAL SCHEDULE

War memorials are being planned for the following dates and places in 2002:

- June 17 Saturday - White Bird Battle Memorial (White Bird, Idaho)
- August 10 Saturday - Big Hole Battle Memorial (Wisdom, Montana)
- September 14 Saturday - Canyon Creek Battle Memorial (Laurel, Montana)
- October 5 Saturday - Bears Paw Mountains Battle Memorial (Chinook, Montana)



We shall be ... brothers of one father and one mother, with one sky above us and one country around us ... Then the Great Spirit ... will smile upon this land, and send rain to wash out the bloody spots made by brothers' hands upon the face of the earth.

~ Chief Joseph



## Nez Perce Country: A Symposium

On June 13 the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude, along with the Nez Perce Tribe and the NPS, will sponsor a symposium at Prairie High School in Cottonwood, Idaho. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the morning session will include a retelling of the Nez Perce creation story, a presentation on historical trauma response, and a panel discussion on historical timeframes. A catered lunch will be served. The afternoon sessions will feature the Nez Perce Resource Management team, spirituality and the land, and addressing the future. An evening banquet will include a guest speaker, Ray Rayez, and entertainment. The lunch is approximately \$8.00 and the banquet will be about \$14.00. Info: (208)962-7123 or [museum@velocitus.net](mailto:museum@velocitus.net)

## 4th Annual Lewis & Clark Symposium: "Trails Through Time"

From June 20-22 Lewis and Clark State College will host the 4th Annual Lewis & Clark Symposium. "Two Centuries, Two Peoples," the fourth annual symposium of a 7-year project, focuses on the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery in the Land of the Nez Perce. The cost will be \$125.00 for the entire symposium and must be received by June 6. This includes meals, handouts, and a bus tour. Late registration will be \$140 and must be received by June 14. Partial-day costs are \$54.00. For more information contact Libby Rawls, [earawls@lsc.edu](mailto:earawls@lsc.edu) or call (208)792-2282.

## Commemorations of the Nez Perce Flight "Of the Area Byways"

This celebration will be from August 20-22 in Island Park, Idaho. Participants meet Tuesday afternoon at the Village Motel for the geological orientation; Tuesday evening will include a cookout and campfire program at Henry's Lake State Park. Wednesday will feature two bus trips: one is Mesa Falls Scenic Byway and Fort Henry Historic Byway; the other is Nez Perce Flight Trail and Lost Gold Scenic Byway. Wednesday evening will feature a dutch oven dinner and rodeo at the Meadow Vue Ranch. Thursday morning includes a cookout at Henry's Lake State Park, and in the afternoon there will be a trip to Yellowstone National Park to the Nez Perce Campground. There are costs, and checks should be made out to Fort Henry Historic Byway for the bus trip and Island Park Historical Society for everything else. As we receive additional information we will post it online at [www.fs.fed.us/npnht/events](http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/events)



" ... General Miles struck across the Missouri, by forced march, with 600 men, intercepted steamboats and made them ferry him across the Missouri, attacked and surrounded Joseph, and after four days of fighting captured hundreds of ponies and compelled the surrender of Joseph and all of his band, except those under White Bird, who escaped through his lines and fled to British America."

~ Lt. Charles A. Woodruff  
Adjutant, 7th Infantry



## PROMOTIONAL AIDS:

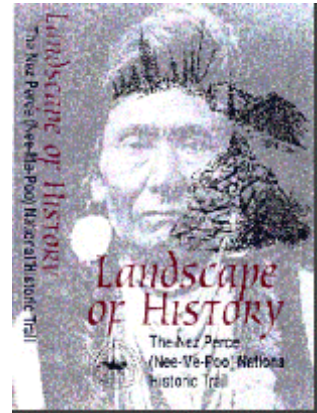
### VIDEO LOAN

#### **Landscape of History:**

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)  
National Historical Trail

This 20-minute video was designed for use by agencies, tribes, and others interested in the preservation and management of the National Historic Trail.

The video captures the essence of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail as it traverses a landscape of history that carries understanding to those who travel it. For thousands of years the Nez Perce (or Nee-Me-Poo, as they call themselves) followed this trail across the mountains to visit friends and relatives on the plains, to trade, and to hunt buffalo.



### BORROW OUR DISPLAY

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail display is available for loan. This 8'x10' free-standing exhibit includes colorful maps, graphics, and historic information on the Nez Perce Trail.



This display is perfect for meetings, fairs, visitor centers, and schools. It is popular, so reserve it well in advance.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For further information, or to reserve the display, contact Sandi McFarland, Administrator, at [smcfarland01@fs.fed.us](mailto:smcfarland01@fs.fed.us) or at (208)476-8334. Details are available online at [www.fs.fed.us/npnht/promotions/](http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/promotions/)



"That night the warriors paraded about camp, singing, all making a good time. It was first since the war started, everybody with good feelings. Going to the buffalo country! No more fighting after Lolo Pass. War was quit! All Montana citizens our friends. This land had belonged to the Flatheads, our old time friends. They called it Iskumkselalik Pah; meaning 'place of the ground squirrels.'"

~ Yellow Wolf



## LOLO NATIONAL FOREST UPDATE:

A number of projects related to the NPNHT are planned or under way on the Lolo. We are maintaining and signing the Trail on the Forest, and are putting a lot of effort into campgrounds along the Trail, including retrofitting, repairing, and making campground areas accessible. We're installing new SSTs along the Trail, and are working on a new brochure on accessible locations. This brochure will also explain rules and regulations for the Trail. We're installing new interpretive signs, and are converting a work center to a campsite and group picnic area. This will be a busy year for Trail improvements on the Lolo.

Andy Kulla  
Missoula Ranger District



## Nez Perce National Historical Park:

Monitoring of resources along the Trail corridor will occur this year, particularly along the Lolo Trail area on the Clearwater National Forest. We're working with the Forest Service and the Tribe and other groups on the monitoring plan, and will monitor vegetation, campsites, and overall mixture of species in the area. Noxious weed introduction is a concern, as are the potential impacts of increased visitation. Our primary focus this year will be on the Clearwater National Forest from Lolo Pass to Weippe.

Jason Lyon,  
Cultural Resource Specialist  
Nez Perce National Historical Park  
Spalding, Idaho



## FAREWELL FROM KEITH

This year, 125 years have passed since the tragic events of 1877 occurred. Some say it was a war; others call it a conflict. Many men, women, and children died or were wounded horribly that year. Suffering did not begin in 1877 — nor did it end that year. Families were torn apart, many never to rejoin. The anguish of fighting spared no group: settlers, soldiers, Nimíipuu. It was a season of fear and crying, anger and mourning. For many, especially among Nez Perce descendents, the wounds heal slowly and are still deep.

The world then (as now) seemed to have gone mad: Wars raged. Nations lived in exile. Meaningless killing and persecution — over ethnicity, religion, and economics — was commonplace.

After ten years of working on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, I find myself wondering what it all means and has meant. In the beginning, after the 1991 dedication, the way seemed clear and the purpose definite. We set out enthusiastically to do a job: mark the trail, tell the story, build partnerships, preserve the history and the sacred sites.

I, like so many others who did not grow up with the Nez Perce trail story as part of my personal family history, only gradually came to see beyond the words written with precision by historians and spoken with eloquence by Nez Perce elders. With enough reading and listening, the words came easier— and the facts came more quickly from memory ... but the emotional meaning took longer to find.

Slowly, through experiences shared with those who were willing to teach, compassion replaced words. Memories flood back: hiking and riding the trail in sunshine and rain, healing ceremonies, feasts lovingly prepared and served, talking late over dying campfires, working with so many new people, so many good friends. The trail brought us together.

Somehow, dwelling on memories of inhumanity, death, and futile conflict also created a connection with those who had gone before. These were not heroes and villains cut from white and black cardboard; they were flesh-and-blood human beings just like us. They suffered the consequences of their own mistakes as well as tragedies thrust upon them for no apparent reason. They felt the same despair and anguish at the loss of loved ones as we have felt in our own





## FAREWELL FROM KEITH (continued)

lives. Surely for some the heartbreak was too great to bear — yet most persevered, and they serve as inspiration for us today.

May we do as well.

### WHY COMMEMORATE THE 1877 NEZ PERCE CONFLICT?

My search for answers ends simply as I examine what I have learned along my own brief trail journey. It is important for others to travel the trail as I have. By remembering the past, our present and future come more clearly into focus. Surely there is no better way to truly understand how our lives today connect with the past than by standing in a sacred place, cold wind of history blowing through our minds, sharing stories or silence with people whose views may differ from our own.

There are other equally important reasons for remembering the tragedies and triumphs of our forebears, but need we look further than preserving the opportunity for each new generation to seek and find personal meaning?

I feel truly blessed to be a small part of the Nez Perce Trail community, and I look forward to working on the trail in the future. But it is time for new energy and leadership. Sandi McFarland has this year become the first full-time NPNHT National Administrator. There is perhaps no better way to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the trail than to invest — in keeping the stories alive — the dedication, knowledge, and experience that Sandi brings to her new position.

The job of preserving the trail and protecting sensitive and sacred sites is far from complete. Land development, visitor pressures, and the steady forces of nature still threaten parts of the trail. It will take the continued efforts of concerned citizens, federal and state agencies, tribes, and many others working collaboratively to ensure that our children's children can seek meaning in the lessons to be learned from the events of 1877.

May we meet again along the trail.

Keith Thurkill  
Outgoing NPNHT Administrator

## FAREWELL TO KEITH

It's with both regret and appreciation, Keith, that we bid you a fond farewell. You've been a partner, a leader, a friend, and an inspiration to us. It won't be the same without you, but we'll do our best to uphold your tradition and follow the example you set for all of us. THANKS. We look forward to your continued involvement with the trail for years to come.

Sandi McFarland  
Administrator, Nez Perce National Historic Trail



This Progress Report was prepared and distributed by the USDA Forest Service. To receive an electronic or hard copy of this progress report, or if you have questions about the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, please contact:

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