

Spring 2005 Progress Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER:

This summer why not enjoy an inspiring trip on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail? Spend some time on your Trail -- relax and rejuvenate your mind, body, and spirit on a designated trail segment or the auto tour routes. While exploring the Trail, discover the history, beauty, and heritage of the area.

National Trails Day is June 4. Be sure to look for National Trails Day events in your area. Every year, more than a million hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and other visitors take part in thousands of events nationwide in celebration of America's trails. These events include new trail dedications, workshops, educational exhibits, equestrian and mountain bike rides, rollerblading, trail maintenance, and hikes on America's favorite trails. We invite you to reconnect with the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and take part in this year's National Trails Day theme, "Take the Path to a Healthier You." Whether you're a day hiker, weekend backpacker, long-distance hiker, trail runner, equestrian, or bicyclist, many opportunities for a wonderful trail experience await you on this treasured trail and Auto Tour Route.

Start your journey online at our award-winning website: www.fs.fed.us/npnht.



THANKS: I would like to thank all our sister agencies and partners for their support and commitment to the NPNHT over the years. Reduced budgets for all land management agencies will impact Trail maintenance, and our ability to ensure accessibility.

Limited funding also affects land acquisition projects that protect the Trail from commercial development. As funding becomes more competitive, the ability to purchase large tracts of land around major high-priority areas such as the Canyon Creek battle site is currently not available.

Our historic and scenic trails are investments in the future. Today's youth will be tomorrow's trail users and stewards. We want to ensure that our children will experience inspiration, peace, adventure, and renewal along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail -- just as we do today. We will all have to work together as one trail family to ensure that these outdoor trail experiences remain available. This will require commitments in funding, partnerships, time, and human spirit -- now.



PROGRESS: Yearly we review the accomplishments for the NPNHT. It's amazing what we are able to do with such a small staff. To this end, NPNHT staff made several well-received presentations last fall to trail organizations, conferences, and interest groups about maintaining and protecting the trail.

As you look through the annual report (linked at the end of this progress report), you may well wonder how we do all this. Our accomplishments wouldn't be possible without our dedicated volunteers and partnerships. Thank you for your support and energy. We couldn't do it without you. We are proud of our accomplishments and excited about the future.

Sandi McFarland

Administrator, Nez Perce National Historic Trail

UPCOMING EVENTS:

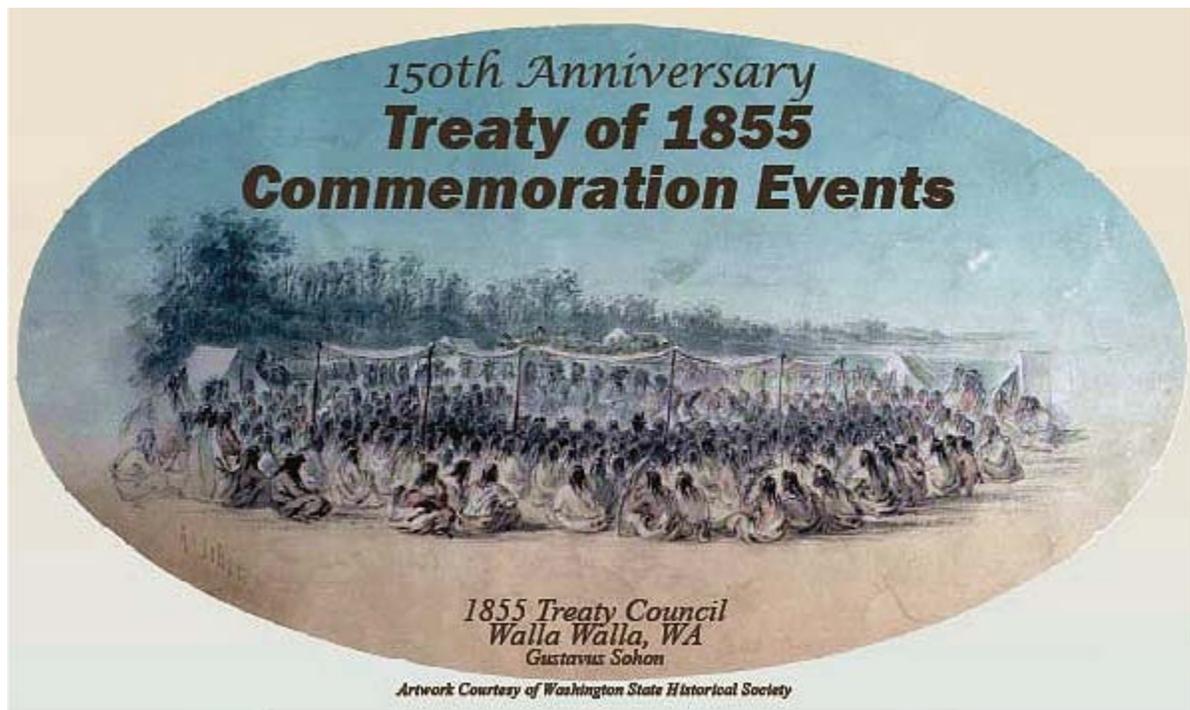


May 28-29 -- TREATY OF 1855

COMMEMORATION: The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will lead the efforts to commemorate the Treaties of 1855 made between the federal government and the tribes and bands that now make up the CTUIR, Nez Perce Tribe, Yakama Nation, and some bands of the Colville Tribe.

Several events will be held in late May and early June in Walla Walla, Washington, where the Treaty Council was held 150 years ago. Events include an honoring procession and dinner on May 28, Multi-Tribal Washat Service on May 29, unveiling of the Peopeomoxmox statue on June 10 and a pow-wow June 10-11.





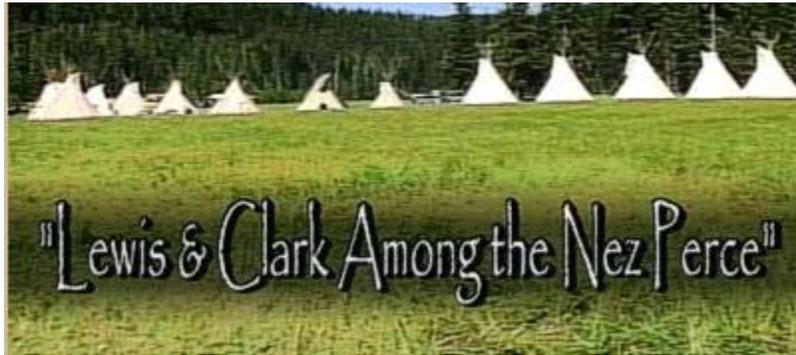
 **June 04 -- 13th ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAILS DAY:** The American Hiking Society announces its 13th Annual National Trails Day. Outdoor enthusiasts are urged to get outside and "Take the Path to a Healthier You" on June 4. The only nationwide trails celebration, this day brings together thousands of outdoor enthusiasts to participate in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops, and trail work projects on the first Saturday of June. It also provides an opportunity to thank the volunteers, land managing agencies, and outdoor-minded businesses for their support in developing and maintaining trails.

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail is once again celebrating National Trails day with the annual NPNHT coloring contest for the kids at Orofino Elementary School. This is a great project for all the kids at the school, and they have some terrific entries in the contest each year. We are also assisting with the Kamiah Middle School Musselshell classes, Garfield School activities, and we are also sponsoring the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club trail naturalization project.

 **June 18-22 -- 10th NATIONAL SCENIC & HISTORIC TRAILS CONFERENCE:** The Partnership for the National Trails System announces the 10th NSHT Conference hosted by the Old Spanish Trail Association in Las Vegas, Nevada. That same week -- June 17-20 -- the OSTA will host its 12th Annual Conference on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, also in Las Vegas. Sponsored by the Partnership, the National Park Service, the BLM, the Forest Service, and the Federal Highway

Administration, the joint conference will be built around the theme of "Community Connections for the National Trails System."

Partnership workshops will explore ways to strengthen the connections between scenic and historic trails and other groups. The NPNHT will serve to moderate and present on the theme "Connecting with Communities Through Education".



 **June 23-25 -- 7th LEWIS AND CLARK SYMPOSIUM:** This year's symposium is devoted to the examination of Lewis & Clark Among the Nez Perce Indians. It's a collaborative effort involving the Nez Perce Tribe, LCSC, world class scholars, teachers,

artisans, local historical groups and experts in ethnology. It will feature presentations, a mini pow-wow, a book signing, period reenactments and field trips.

The NPNHT has served on the planning committee and will provide an interpreter at Spalding on Friday and once again have our display at the Williams Conference Center.

RECENT EVENTS:

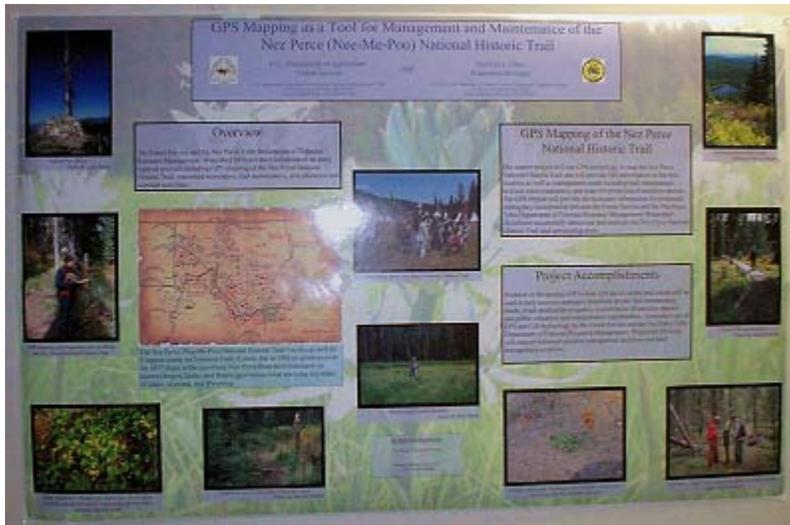
 **May 27-29 -- Camas Festival:** Weippe, Idaho was the site of the annual Camas Festival, a celebration commemorating the significance of the Weippe Prairie in the historic meeting of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the Nez Perce people. A living landscape welcomed visitors, who strolled the paths through the native habitat that the Expedition members saw when they first set foot on the Weippe Prairie.



The two-day festival offered events for all ages and encouraged participation of families. Live music in the park, a variety of food vendors, crafts, displays, and several demonstrations were featured. Also included were guest speakers, NPNHT Public Affairs Officer Christine Bradbury showed the "Landscape of History" video, a horseshoe tournament, canoe digging, a Pony Express reenactment, and a live replica of a military camp in 1804.

 **May 4-6 - Idaho Governor's Conference on Rural Development, Recreation and Tourism:** "Building Stronger Communities" was the theme of the 2005 Idaho Governor's Conference on Rural Development, Recreation and Tourism held at the Shiloh Inn in Idaho Falls May 4-6. The keynote speaker was Rebecca Anderson with HandMade in America and she talked about how Idaho can identify and utilize its own cultural assets for

community development. Another workshop featured recreational trails and the benefits they provide to build stronger communities. The NPNHT Administrator, Sandi McFarland, attended and staffed our display answering questions.



April 18-22 -- Resource Management Tools & Geospatial Conference: The [Resource Management Tools & Geospatial Conference](#), hosted by the Forest Service, BLM, and Arizona State University, was held in Phoenix, Arizona. The organizing committee of this conference chose a Nez Perce Trail poster as one of the winners in the "Collaborative Efforts" category at the

conference. The judging panel selected "GPS Mapping as a Tool for Management and Maintenance of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail," by Jennifer Boie of the Nez Perce Tribe. The judges said the beautiful poster clearly demonstrated and highlighted the partnership between the NPNHT and the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource Management's Watershed Division as they continue to map the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

The current project uses GPS technology to map the Trail and will provide GIS information on the trail location as well as management needs -- including trail maintenance, noxious weed eradication, and areas for protection of sensitive species. The GPS project will provide information for continued interagency coordination between the Forest Service and the Nez Perce Tribe. The poster at the conference showed how the innovative use of GPS and GIS layers are helping resource managers to administer and maintain the Trail and surrounding areas.

April 15-16 -- Boy Scout Camporee: The Inland Northwest Council of Boy Scouts sponsored a "Camporee" commemorating the Lewis and Clark expedition; the event was called "Pi'amkin," the Nez Perce word for "gathering." Celebrating 95 years of Scouting and the Forest Service Centennial, the two-day event was held at the Roundup Grounds in Lewiston, Idaho.

Activities for scouts and families included demonstrations and



Young members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club

instruction in skills of the mountain men and the Nez Perce. The Forest Service contributed a number of demonstrations and educational materials for the event, including the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, the Northern Region Pack Team, Scale Model Fire Lookouts, Leave No Trace Activity, Nez Perce Games, smokejumpers and a fire engine, Remote Automated Weather Station information, a tree identification workshop, and a Centennial Exhibit.

NPNHT staff coordinated and assisted in all Forest Service activities. Christine Bradbury did an excellent job, KUDOS Christine!!! Trail Administrator Sandi McFarland introduced the new version of "Landscape of History" on Friday night at the new LCSC activity center and also served as emcee for the grand entry of tribal dancers and riders, which also included drummers and a flag song. We would also like to thank all those Forest Service folks that helped out on their days off to make this such a huge success.



March 21-22 -- Montana Governor's Conference: The 2005 Montana Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation was held in Helena. The conference gathers Montana's tourism industry partners each year for two days of education, evaluation, exchange, and entertainment. NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland was one of the sponsors, and staffed the Trail display at the conference. A number of speakers made presentations on tourism and trails in the state.



March 10 -- LCSC Native American Awareness Week: The theme for this year's LCSC Native American Awareness Week was "Pathways to Cultural Resiliency". Events kicked off with a mini pow-wow attended by area fourth graders on March 8th. A variety of speakers presented information on subjects such as language preservation, cultural resilience, and Indian education. NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland presented the newly updated video, "Landscape of History," and staffed the Trail display.



February 25-28 -- Joint Partnership Meeting for Trails: Administrator Sandi McFarland traveled to Washington, DC, to report accomplishments along the NPNHT and to address its management issues. She met with staffers for Special Legislative Assistant Dave Sire, U.S. Senators Larry Craig and Mike Crapo of Idaho, U.S. Senator Conrad Burns of Montana, Senior Policy Advisors Calli Daly and Arlene Langaster, and Legislative Assistant Christine Heggem. She also enjoyed interacting with trails managers, partners and enthusiasts from across the United States.



HOUSE APPROVES FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL SCENIC & HISTORIC TRAIL FUNDING:

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has recommended and the House has passed the same level of funding for the national scenic and historic trails administered and managed by the Forest Service for FY2006 as Congress provided for FY2005. And, once again this is an increase from the Administration request and from the FY2005 level for all trail funding.

The Committee recommends \$76,000,000 for trails maintenance and capital improvement, \$12,208,000 above the budget request and \$293,000 above the fiscal year 2005 level. The Committee directs continuation of the increased funding amounts provided in fiscal year 2005 for maintenance of the national scenic and historic trails.

The Forest Service will make every effort to work with volunteer groups, which contribute work, time, and money to enhance Federal resources.



HALL OF TRIBES:

The Hall of Tribes is a project spearheaded by the Tribal Relations staff in the WO. They are using the expansive hallway of the fourth floor in the Auditor's Building, leading to the Chief's Office, to highlight Forest Service projects done in collaboration with Native American Tribes. The intent is to showcase projects from each Region with one project being the focus of each Region's display and additional info about other projects and the Tribes rounding out each Region's display. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail restoration project done with the Salish-Kootenai and Nez Perce Tribes, is the project being highlighted for the Northern Region.



OROFINO SCHOOLS PROGRAM:



Trail staff member Carolyn Steiner made presentations about the Trail for several classes at Orofino Junior High School. In April she visited Pam Danielson's 8th grade history classes; Danielson was teaching a unit on Nez Perce history. Steiner asked the students what they knew about the Nez Perce War of 1877, and was pleasantly surprised at the extent of their knowledge. She showed the students the new "Landscape of History" video, and was pleased with their interest in the video and Nez Perce history.



CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST:

The Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPAPHC) has, for years, assisted the Forest Service with interpretive conservation education programs. But according to NPAPHC president, Kay Kidder, the group has long hoped to "get their hands dirty" doing work projects along the NPNHT. This summer that will become a reality with the NPAPHC working on two sections of the NPNHT over two summer weekends. First, they will tackle five miles between Musselshell and Lolo Forks. Then they will travel up to the Deep Saddle area to finish the remaining three miles. Part of their project will be to naturalize trees that are cut out of the trail. The picture to the right shows an example of a "naturalized" chainsaw cut.

NPAPHC plans to make this a holistic learning experience for participants. They will host several Nez Perce youth who will help them work. NPAPHC members hope to instill work and stewardship ethics in these youngsters with hard, but rewarding labor. Evenings will

focus on cultural education, Nez Perce members will share what the NPNHT means to them as descendants of those who forged this route.

Also, when you pick up a new Clearwater National Forest Map you will notice some geographic name changes. This continues the effort of removing the derogatory names and replacing them with names that reflect the rich history of the area. Papoose Creek is now 'Imnamatnoon Creek (Grizzly Bear Creek), Papoose Saddle is now 'Imnamatnoon Likoolam (Grizzly Bear Saddle), Squaw Creek is now Waw'aalamnime Creek (Cutthroat Trout Creek), and Squaw Saddle is now Wacamyoos Likoolam (Rainbow Saddle).



BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST:

NPNHT Administration funded the Wisdom Ranger District specialists' time on preparation of the environmental assessment for the Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails. The project involves about 10 miles of trail construction and reconstruction, and also uses portions of the old Yellowstone Trail or Park to Park Highway. The project will provide a trail experience for visitors along the historic route from Gibbons Pass to the Big Hole Battlefield.

A Trails brochure to complement the "Flight of the Nez Perce through the Big Hole, Horse Prairie and Lemhi Valleys" auto brochure is proposed. It would highlight the newly constructed trail route for the Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce Trails from Gibbons Pass to the Battlefield, and Forest system trails that access Skinner Meadows on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.



BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST:

The Bitterroot National Forest created a two-panel interpretive sign for the trailhead near Highway 93, and created and installed interpretive signs at Gibbons Pass and at the intersection of Trail Creek and Highway 43. The same NPNHT funding also paid for improvements at the trailhead.

Proposed projects for this year include installation of the interpretive sign at the trailhead near Highway 93, and some needed work on the upper half-mile of the trail near Gibbons Pass. The current trail is now located along an open Forest Service road, which may not provide the kind of experience hikers are looking for, and it also maybe incorrectly located. Staff needs to re-open the trail that traverses the Forest, and connect it with the newly constructed Continental Divide Trail.



GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST:

An interpretive sign panel was developed and manufactured for the Beartooth Scenic Byway (Highway 212) and roadside pulloff. A site survey and preliminary designs for the Targhee Pass site were produced, including NPNHT interpretation. Also, 5,000 copies of the "Leadore to West Yellowstone Auto Tour Brochure" were printed. Plans for the

upcoming year include upgrading interpretive panels and sculptures at the Beartooth Scenic Byway roadside site, and an interpretive campground map at Chief Joseph Campground.

 **ROADSIDE
SCULPTURE ON THE
GALLATIN:**

With a backdrop of lodgepole pines, a sculpture of three Nez Perce riders on the Gallatin National Forest stands in recognition and commemoration of the historic 1877 flight of the Nez Perce people. The sheet-steel sculpture depicts the riders in silhouette at a roadside exhibit near Cooke City, Montana.

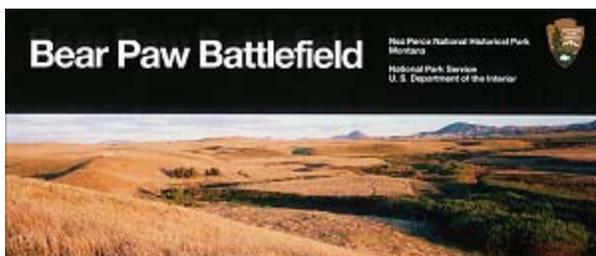


Gallatin National Forest Landscape Architect, Jane Ruchman, worked for more than a year with the Forest Service enterprise team, Heritage Design, on development of the sculpture. The sculpture and interpretive panel, funded by the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, are located along the Nez Perce Trail auto tour route on the Beartooth Scenic Byway.

A large crowd attended the sculpture's unveiling last October. Nez Perce spiritual leader Horace Axtell performed a traditional Nez Perce blessing ceremony, with blessings and prayers of protection interwoven with traditional drumming and songs of the drum group Nez Perce Nation. Special guests included accomplished Nez Perce sculptor Abraham Yearout, whose hard work and creativity made the piece a reality.

For the Nez Perce people, the sculpture is much more than a static symbol of the hardships and tragedy faced by the Nez Perce people in the past -- it's also a part of a living memory that is still healing and still relevant in the lives of many Nez Perce today.

 **BEAR PAW NEWS:**



under an agreement with the State of Montana.

The National Park Service announced on May 2 that the agency has assumed ownership of the Bear Paw Battlefield after a land transfer involving The Conservation Fund and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The NPS has administered and staffed the site since 1992

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Glacier Natural History Association, and the Russell Country Tourism Board jointly provided funding for reprinting 28,000 copies of the Bear

Paw Battlefield brochure and trail guide. About 16 miles south of Chinook, the battlefield commemorates the final battle of the Nez Perce War of 1877.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

Twelve National Scenic and Historic Trails cross public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM is taking a closer look at how it will manage these trails by developing a National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan. In the spirit of citizen participation embodied in the National Trails System Act, the agency is making the draft plan available for comment until July 1, 2005. Individuals interested in reviewing the plan can request a electronic or printed copy by calling 202.208.3516. This is an opportunity for the public, groups, stakeholders, industry, and other government agencies to lend insight into this process and assist BLM in setting the stage for managing this program now and in the future.

NATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM:

The 2004 National Trails Symposium was held last October in Austin, Texas. This conference served as an opportunity for high-quality networking and education sessions for the trails community. As a sponsor and exhibitor, we had the opportunity to be listed in symposium publications, including the Fall edition of Trail Tracks and the registration brochure, the program, and the reference guide -- as well as the American Trails website. In all there were 686 attendees, including 175 presenters. We were among 149 sponsors who offered 90 booths in the Exhibit Hall. More than 150 volunteers participated. NPNHT staff presented a poster session, a Trail exhibit, and a photo gallery of bridges along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

RETURN TO YELLOWSTONE:

On August 22, 1877 the Nez Perce entered the newly created Yellowstone National Park along the Madison and Firehole Rivers, spending two weeks traversing the park. Their route led them up Nez Perce Creek, across Mary Mountain, across the Yellowstone River at Nez Perce Ford, and up Pelican Valley over the Absaroka Mountains.



On August 21, 2004 members of the Nez Perce Tribe gathered in Yellowstone National Park along Fountain Flat Drive near Nez Perce Creek for a memorial and pipe ceremony to

honor their ancestors who endured hardships in the park 127 years before. The day marked the first time the Nez Perce have returned to Yellowstone since 1877.

Wilfred "Scotty" Scott helped plan the ceremony in remembrance that the Nez Perce were there, and had had a long history of coming to Yellowstone prior to 1877. The ceremony began with a brief introduction, which was followed by drumming and singing of the honor song led by Horace Axtell. Levi Holt played a song on the flute. Eight members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club rode down the hill in full regalia and rounded the pipe circle three times.



FORT LEAVENWORTH:

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail was able to officially certify the Fort Leavenworth site in Kansas. This certification would not have been possible without the extended efforts of

Crystal White, then vice president of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. Crystal was able to work in conjunction with Fort Leavenworth personnel to plan ceremonies, signage and other formalities. Ceremonies were held Friday, November 19, and a reception was held at St. Mary's University in Leavenworth. A symposium followed on Saturday, November 20, at the university.

Click any of the images below for a larger version



BATTLEFIELD FRIENDS:

The Friends of Bear Paw, Big Hole and Canyon Creek Battlefields have added a number of fine updates to their website at <http://www.friendsnezpercebattlefields.org> including an updated news page and an in-depth archaeology report documenting a surface inventory undertaken in June 2000 at the Bear Paw Battlefield. They will soon be adding an archaeology report documenting a survey of the Big Hole National Battlefield.



VOLUNTEER! IT'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

Do you love the outdoors and also enjoy helping people? We need you!

From maintaining trails to restoring watersheds, partnerships and volunteers are critical to getting the work completed. By working together, partners contribute to the overall stewardship of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

You can get involved. You can help in preserving and protecting this special place for future generations -- your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome. Consider joining one of the many trail maintenance organizations or supporters -- such as the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, or Friends of Bear Paw, Big Hole and Canyon Creek Battlefields or the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. By contributing your time and learning new skills, you can make new friends and take pride in enhancing future visitors' enjoyment of the land. Just email us if you want more information.



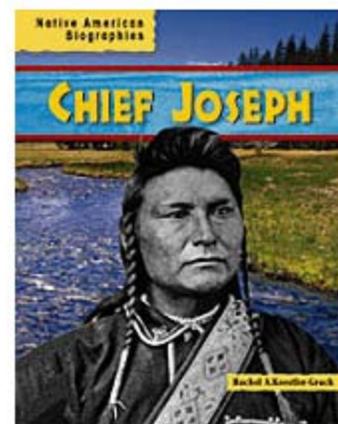
"LANDSCAPE OF HISTORY" VIDEO UPDATE:

Thanks to the diligent work of Gene Colling, our now-retired Forest Service audio-visual specialist, the newly revised "Landscape of History" was completed in December. We are proud to make it available to you to use in your visitor centers and to share with local schools and communities. If you need copies, please contact Sandi McFarland at smcfarland01@fs.fed.us or at 208.476.8334.



NEW BOOK ON CHIEF JOSEPH:

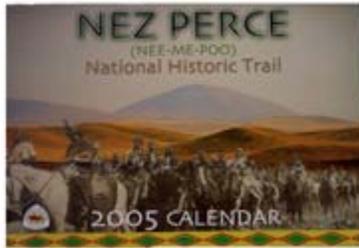
Rachel Koestler-Grack has written a book about Chief Joseph. This book is part of a series on important figures in the history of American Indians intended for students in



second, third, and fourth grades. The book contains a brief, straightforward biography covering Chief Joseph's early life, as well as the important events that led to his significant place in U.S. history. Social issues and important events are included. The focus will be on what Chief Joseph's childhood was like, how lived, and unique characteristics.



NEW CALENDAR:



We also designed and printed 5,000 NPNHT calendars --and distributed them to over 250 sites across the nation, including the new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, and outside the United States.



2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY:

The annual list of accomplishments for FY2004 is available as a [\[PDF\]](#).



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For further information, contact Sandi McFarland, Administrator, at smcfarland01@fs.fed.us or at (208)476-8334

