



NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Progress Report

Spring 2010



New National Education Campaign Launched to Encourage Respect for Public Lands

Tread Lightly!, in partnership with the nation's most influential hunting and shooting sports organizations, has released a series of public service announcements (PSAs) encouraging responsible behavior on public lands. They are part of a much larger new education and outreach campaign called "[Respected Access is Open Access.](#)"



"Across America, access and opportunities are dwindling at a rate so serious it demands our immediate attention and action. Damage caused by a minority of recreationists who are either uninformed or uncaring of the consequences of their actions is contributing to the loss of access for everyone," said Lori McCullough, executive director of the nonprofit organization Tread Lightly!.

"The Respected Access campaign has been a true partnership of resources with national hunting and shooting sports organizations to promote responsible behaviors on public lands," said Jim Bedwell, Director of Recreation for the US Forest Service. "Responsible shooting is a legitimate use of public lands, as is a wide variety of other activities done responsibly, so the Respected Access campaign complements the efforts of land managers across the nation to manage sustainable recreation."

Birch Creek Interpretive Kiosk to be Dedicated in June

Birch Creek rises from springs on the valley floor between the Lemhi and Beaverhead Mountains. The stream flows south across the valley floor and ends in the shallow sinks on the Snake River Plain.

Archaeological research has traced human occupation of this valley back more than 10,000 years.

Staff from the Bureau of Land Management are currently working with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (Lemhi Chapter), Sacajawea Historic Byway Committee, Salmon Valley Business and Innovation Center, and others to prepare a series of interpretive panels to be installed at Birch Creek, south of Salmon and Leadore, Idaho.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in this project for your hard work and dedication.

A dedication of this new kiosk is planned for June 26, 2010.

Richard Hill, Archaeologist BLM Upper Snake River Field Office



Yellowstone Historic Center News

Thanks for being an important part of the [Yellowstone Historic Center](#) in 2009! It was a great year for our organization. Because of the help and interest of preservationists like you, the YHC museum was able to operate for its ninth season, telling the story of transportation and visitation to Yellowstone and interpreting our unique local history. Special thanks to our hard working museum front desk staff, to our dedicated Board of Directors, and to our finance secretary Carol Leasure, who was always there to help YHC with her devotion, expertise, and countless talents.

We have many exciting projects planned for 2010. Our BRAND NEW website went live in mid January. Look for the return of our monthly newsletter, which will be accessible via our website; look for our Museum Annual Report, which will also be accessible via our website; look for NEW EXHIBITS and SPECIAL PROGRAMS in the museum summer 2010, including Wings Into West, telling the story of air travel into West Yellowstone; look for many volunteer opportunities to be announced, including help with inventorying our collections; and look for upcoming information on our Ninth Annual Heritage Celebration Saturday, July 24, 2010.

We are also planning a large membership drive, so please think about renewing your membership, or joining for the first time. Memberships are available at various levels of support, and benefits at all levels include free admission to the YHC museum, free passes for friends and family, 15% off in our museum store, free admission to all events and lectures at the museum, and, of course, the best benefit is helping to preserve our history and historic buildings.

The YHC will open for the 2010 season on Saturday May 8.

Thanks again, from your friends at the YHC.

Jen Cantu
Curator and Museum Manager
Yellowstone Historic Center

Chief Joseph Trail Ride to Take Place in Big Hole Country This Summer

The Appaloosa Horse Club will be conducting their 46th annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride (CJTR) July 18 – 24, 2010. This ride was established in 1965 by George Hatley and a handful of ApHC members to commemorate the Nez Perce people and the Appaloosa horse. It retraces, as closely as possible, the 1,200 mile route taken by the tribe in their flight from the U.S. cavalry in 1877. Each year the riders cover a 100 mile segment of the trail. It takes thirteen years to complete the entire route. Participation in the ride has grown from two dozen in that first year to nearly 200 riders today. At one time the ride exceeded 400 participants. Many members of the Nez Perce Tribe join this trek to honor their ancestors and participate in their cultural history.

This year the ride will start near Jackson, Montana in the Big Hole Valley, continue along the Continental Divide Trail and Bannock Pass to Leadore in the Lemhi Valley of Idaho. For additional information please visit the [Appaloosa Horse Club website](#) or contact the Trail as Distance Coordinator at trailrides@appaloosa.com or call 208-882-5578 ext 221.

Kevin Pullen
Trails
Department
Appaloosa
Horse Club



Appaloosa horses in camp, Bitterroot valley, Montana. Chief Joseph Trail Ride 2009.
Photo by Tavra Donberger



2009 Chief Joseph Trail Ride: Lead Riders for the Chief Joseph Trail Ride enter Big Hole National Battlefield.
Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

See more photos from the 2009 CJTR on page 9

10th Annual Camas Festival Weippe Idaho

May 28-30, 2010

The theme for this year Weippe Camas Festival is "Road to the Buffalo." The festival format provides a unique way to serve visitors and bring awareness to the remarkable trail systems in our area. The Road to the Buffalo theme uses the Nez Perce legend of the brave boy and grizzly bear over the high mountain trail that teaches us still about the resources of this great land.

Through a series of speakers and interpretative programs, Festival organizers identify and promote opportunities for people to become actively involved the stewardship, management, and preservation of the Nez Perce Trail, as well as identify and interpret the importance of other trails that are established in our area.

The 2010 event premieres our new photo contest program entitled "Nature Shots Along the Trail" with categories of wildlife and scenic for both youth and adult. We are featuring [Ben Marra](#), professional photographer along with speakers, Lynn Laughley, Gwen Carter, and Robbin Johnston, historians in special areas of Nez Perce travel and customs, as well as geological changes and history of the land.

The Festival starts Friday, May 28 and runs through Sunday, May 30, 2010. So mark your calendar now and we'll see you in Weippe, ID.

For additional information and a full schedule of events please visit the Camas Festival website at: <http://www.weippe.com/> and click on schedule.



UPCOMING 2010 Events:

- May 12-14 — PNTS Historic Trails Workshop, San Antonio, TX
- May 28-30— Camas Festival, Weippe, ID, *Road to the Buffalo*
- May 28 – Summer hours (8 to 5) begin daily at the Spalding Visitor Center
- June 5 — National Trails Day: www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx
- June 19 -- White Bird Battle Memorial, White Bird, ID
- June 18, 19, 20 -- Chief Joseph & Warriors Memorial Powwow, Lapwai, ID
- June 25-29 — Nez Perce Ride to Freedom, Fort Walsh, SK. Canada
- July 18-24 - [Chief Joseph Trail Ride](#), Jackson, MT to Bannock Pass, MT
- August 7 -- Big Hole Battle Memorial, Wisdom, MT
- August 13, 14, 15 -- Chief Looking Glass Days & Powwow, Kamiah, ID
- October 2 -- Bear's Paw Battle Memorial, Chinook, MT





News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation:

The start of a New Year is always one of hope and enthusiasm and to go forward with the work of the Foundation to preserve, protect and commemorate the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

January is the month that the Foundation finalizes the operational plans for the year. Our operational plans were to get the Cost Share Agreements completed for FY 2010. We proposed six projects, and the first reports were that we were granted only two, our general operational project and the Teacher Education Project in Yellowstone National Park. None of the proposed interpretive projects were approved. There are two carry over projects from FY 2009 that were not completed last year. These include Howard Springs and Riverside Park. These projects have been requested to be carried over to FY 2010.

During the month of **February**, Hike the Hill and preparation for this event kept the Foundation staff busy. As a member of the Partnership for the National Trail System, the Foundation took part in this annual event in Washington D.C. We visited all the 16 Congressional Offices which the NPNHT crosses and all the Federal Agencies that manage the land along the Trail. Reports on our activities were reported in our annual report. This can be found on the NPTF web site <http://nezperctrail.net/>

The Foundation received grants totaling \$63,500.00. For this NPTF returned 12,275 hours of volunteer time and funds equaling \$263,319 for 41.5% return for every tax dollar we received. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail receives \$610,000.00 for the US Forest Service to administrate the NPNHT.

Collectively the Partnership for the National Trail System (PNTS), 28 National Historic & Scenic Trails, reported 907,435 volunteer hours and funds for a total of \$11,746,238 return to the Federal Government for work on the National Trail System.

The highlight of this year's [American Hiking Society's Hike the Hill](#): Trails Advocacy Week, was our actually "Hiking the Hill." Members of the PNTS hiked from the Lincoln Memorial to the steps of the National Capital.

In March the winter board of directors meeting was held in Nespelem, WA, at the CC Credit Union conference room. It was a conference call meeting. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the web site <http://nezperctrail.net/i/NPTFminutesWinter%2010.pdf>

The next big moment for the Foundation will be the dedication of the kiosk at Birch Creek in southeastern Idaho. This will take place on June 26, 2010 at the site. See additional information on page 1 of this report.

Jim Evans
Executive Director
Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Jim Evans in Washington
DC for Hike The Hill





News From the National Park Service:

Big Hole National Battlefield

Work is scheduled to begin in June on renovations to the Big Hole Visitor Center (as reported in the [Winter Progress Report](#)).

"Coyote Camp" will be held the week of May 24. During this camp youth will be exposed to a number of Nez Perce cultural demonstrators. Staff from other parks and schools around Montana and Idaho will have an opportunity to participate in this intensive learning experience.

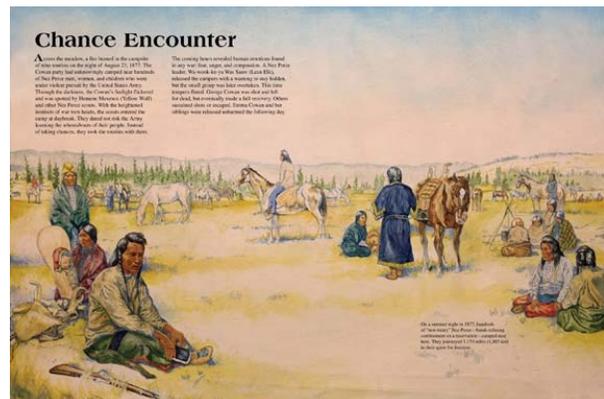
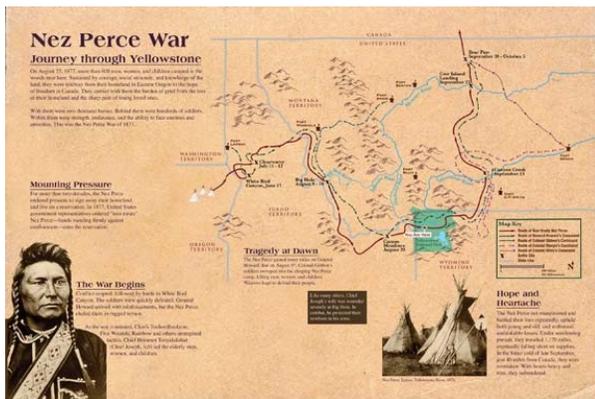
During the camp students will go around the park to educational stations to learn about the Nez Perce culture and what happened at Big Hole in August of 1877. They will also have the opportunity to explore a range of other subjects in morning or afternoon sessions. The weeklong camp is expected to bring in almost 1,000 students and teachers to the park. There is still some space available. For additional information please contact Leslie Lula at 406-689-3155 or the [Big Hole National Battlefield](#).

Steve Black
Superintendent
Big Hole National Battlefield

Yellowstone National Park

To honor the Nez Perce people and to commemorate their journey through Yellowstone during the Nez Perce War of 1877, two wayside exhibit panels have been developed for installation in Yellowstone National Park. During the past several years, members of the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation participated in several meetings and an in-park tour. Their accounts and commentary became an important part of the reference materials for these exhibits. Artist Nakia Williamson-Cloud illustrated a likely scene from the 1877 journey through Yellowstone, and his beautifully rendered painting now provides the focal point on one of the panels. Exhibit content went through a review process with participation by tribal members. Both 36" x 24" exhibit panels (see them below) will be installed in early summer in a kiosk near Nez Perce Creek, between Madison Junction and Old Faithful.

Jo Suderman, Exhibit Specialist
Yellowstone National Park





News From the National Park Service:

Nez Perce National Historical Park

Park visitation from January 1 to December 31, 2009 was 49,822 at Big Hole; 5,667 at Bear Paw; and 97,379 visitors at Spalding.

The last tribal consultation for new Big Hole exhibits was in October at Nespelem. The final exhibit plan was delivered in March, and the fabrication contract will be let in May. A new visitor center roof and fire suppression system will be installed beginning in June, during which a temporary visitor contact station will be located in the housing area. The new exhibits will then be installed, after which the visitor center will reopen in 2011.

Nez Perce National Historical Park received funding for a new introductory film for the Spalding visitor center, to replace the 1980s *Nez Perce: Portrait of a People*. Script development with tribal consultation is anticipated to begin in August, with filming to follow. The new film will be 18 to 20 minutes long, and is expected to debut in 2012.

The old Spalding post office was removed and revegetated in March, and a new trail system is being established through the Spalding area.

The park's resource management program continues its camas monitoring activities at Big Hole and the Weippe Prairie site in cooperation with the NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network. Field work at the latter site will again occur with student participation from the Timberline, Craigmont, and Lapwai high schools during May 24-28, 2010.

In 2009 the curatorial division began correcting deficiencies in museum accession records; the second phase, completed last fall, reviewed ca. 4,000 items and their records in two early accessions. To date 7,500+ items and their associated catalog records in 10 accessions have been reviewed as a function of this two-year project.

Several Park sites are being considered for climate change monitoring, including Big Hole, Bear Paw, Weippe Prairie, and Old Chief Joseph Cemetery, as part of the DOI High Elevation Climate Change monitoring network. NPS would partner with USGS and USFWS to identify and monitor indicators of climate change in park environments. A planning meeting in May will begin identifying monitoring indicators and procedures.

In May the Park begins its second year in a Trails and Rails partnership with Amtrak, providing on-board volunteer interpretive guides on the Empire Builder between Havre and Minot. The guides inform passengers about the Nez Perce Trail and regional Montana/North Dakota history. In 2009 guides were aboard once a week; in 2010, following two days of training in April, it will expand to twice-weekly.

The Park expects a busy spring season of school field trips to Spalding in 2010.

Scott Eckberg
Idaho Unit Manager
Nez Perce National Historical Park

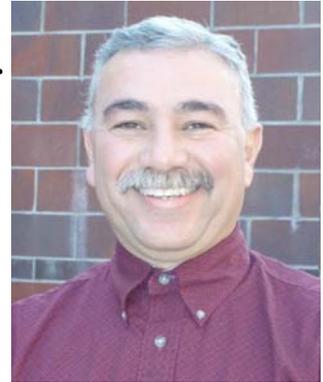


New Faces Along the Trail:

Frank Guzman Selected as Salmon-Challis Forest Supervisor

Intermountain Regional Forester Harv Forsgren recently named Frank Guzman as the Forest Supervisor for the Salmon-Challis National Forest. As Forest Supervisor Guzman will have responsibility for managing over 4.3 million acres in east central Idaho. The rugged and remote area of the Salmon-Challis is a highly desired destination for hunting, fishing, white-water rafting, and many other popular recreational pursuits.

"Frank's extensive experience with the Forest Service makes him an excellent fit as the Forest Supervisor for the Salmon-Challis National Forest," said Forsgren.



Guzman received a Bachelor's Degree in Rangeland Resources from Oregon State University in 1989. He has served in various positions in the Forest Service, including forestry technician, range management specialist, and district ranger. Before coming to the Salmon-Challis Guzman was the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Boise National Forest. Guzman replaces Bill Wood, who retired last year.

Guzman, his wife Jeri, and their two children look forward to making the move to Salmon. As a family they enjoy such activities as training and riding horses, whitewater rafting and hunting.

Julie King Named Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor



U.S. Forest Service Northern Regional Forester Leslie Weldon recently announced the selection of Julie King as Forest Supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest.

King settled in the Bitterroot valley as the Deputy Forest Supervisor in November, 2008. She began her career on Caribou National Forest in 1988 in Montpelier, ID as a range conservationist. She was also zone range conservationist in Council Idaho before moving to Grants, NM, as a deputy district ranger. After moving to Heber, UT, she became district ranger for nine years addressing the many challenges of urban interface growth along forest boundary, fuels management, and two million visitors per year.

King grew up in Mt. Pleasant, UT, and received a B.S. in Range Management from Utah State University. Julie enjoys working with people and is looking forward to becoming more involved with local conservation and restoration efforts with community groups and projects on the Bitterroot NF. Julie and her husband Jay live in the Bitterroot valley with seven year old daughter Jasmine and five year old daughter Jaelyn, both adopted from China.

New Personnel at Nez Perce National Historical Park

Naomi Wood, who attends Salish-Kootenai College, will return to Spalding as a summer seasonal ranger.

Jannis Jocius was hired under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) as the Park's new natural resource specialist, Jannis recently completed her Master's Degree at the University of Idaho, and is now updating the Park's vegetation management program.



New Faces Along the Trail, cont.:

Tom Reed Takes Over as Manager at Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge

Tom Reed has had an interest in the outdoors since he was eight years old. At that young age his father put a shotgun in his hand and took him quail hunting in the Southern California desert.

“From that point on, I never missed an opportunity to hunt with my dad,” said Reed, the new manager of the [Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge](#) near Stevensville, MT.

He is a devoted student of wildlife and habitat management has worked all over the country, in a staggeringly diverse range of positions for a wide array of employers.

Reed is a graduate of Humboldt State University in Northern California with a degree in wildlife management. Following graduation he went into construction, but soon found a position with the California Fish and Game Department at Honey Lake Wildlife Management Area. That work soon led to a position with California Waterfowl Association working in the Sacramento Valley.

He then began studying disease in waterfowl with the National Wildlife Health Resource Center and got his master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Following graduate school Reed has worked in a number of places including, Northern California, Moses Lake, Wash., Washington, D.C. and Jackson, Wyo.

Reed said, with a new comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge currently in the works, it’s an interesting time to be here.

Most of all, Reed is looking forward to working with the community to further the refuge’s mission of providing a sanctuary for wildlife that also connects people with the places around them. He especially enjoys seeing the range of outreach efforts that Refuge staff members are already involved in, including getting youth interested in outdoor activities.

“Come enjoy your refuge,” he said. “We work for you.”

Information from a Ravalli Republic article by Will Moss published February 7, 2010



The Bitterroot range as seen from the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge



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Images from the 2009 Chief Joseph Trail Ride

(All photographs by Tafra Donberger)



During the 2009 CJTR riders traveled from Sula, MT to the Big Hole Battlefield. For information about the 2010 CJTR see page 2 of this Report.

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