



Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Summer 2006 Progress Report

Administrator's Corner

PEOPLE POWER: Advocacy Blazes Trails

The Nez Perce Trail is an important key to our past, and to our present. We use these routes created by our forebears daily. We drive to work on them, hike on them and travel to favorite recreation spots on them.

Many visitors to our trail are drawn here hoping to experience the outdoor recreation and historical places of interest that are a part of our daily lives.

If there's one essential ingredient to creating trails and trail systems, it's people. All the land and financing in the world won't blaze a trail if there aren't people championing the project.

These people are often citizen volunteers like you—residents from communities surrounding the trail; birdwatchers; members of local hiking, equestrian and cycling clubs; landowners and all those who value trails enough to become strong advocates for a trail project.

These essential people perform the toughest task in the trail-building process: Advocacy. They take on people-to-people communication, education and problem-solving necessary to succeed in the complex multi-owner, multi-jurisdictional and multi-user environments characteristics of many local, regional and national trail projects today like those found along the NPNHT. They build teams, educate others and create and maintain partnerships among different players in the community.

To achieve NPNHT goals, we have worked with a diverse group of public and private interests and a large volunteer network of trail advocates. We foster unique coalitions among the many cities, counties and communities with access to our trail systems. This effort is now nationwide in forming partnerships with local agencies and others to assist in trail recognition and stewardship. Such team-building, outreach and advocacy remains the driving force of our program.

Why are we so concerned about nationwide partnerships? A quote by President Abraham Lincoln sums it up nicely: "A country with no regard for its past will have little worth remembering in the future."



Sandi McFarland

Administrator, Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Fort Benton Site Certification

During Fort Benton's 30th Annual Summer Celebration, Fort Benton became a certified site of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Certified sites are those sites that are not included in the Congressionally designated NPNHT, but are still significant to the Nez Perce heritage.

We would like to thank Bob Doerk, Sharalee Smith and John G. "Jack" Lepley for all their hard work in making this certification a gleaming success. On June 25, close to 200 attendees enjoyed activities which included 32 members of Steele's Scouts Commemorative troop ride. Steele's Scouts had close historic ties with Fort Benton. Also present were the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who in the early days were called the North West Mounted Police.

The Nez Perce Tribe also participated with Gary E. Greene, Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee (NPTEC) member; Larry M. Greene, Jr., NPTEC chaplain providing a traditional Nez Perce prayer; and Pete Wilson's Nez Perce Nation Drum providing traditional Nez Perce songs. Sandi McFarland spoke of the importance of healing across cultures and how site certifications are a tool we can use to accomplish this mission. Larry and Gary Greene both spoke on the importance of site certification associated with the NPNHT.

We also thank Abe Yearout, a Nez Perce tribal artist, for the outstanding metal silhouette.

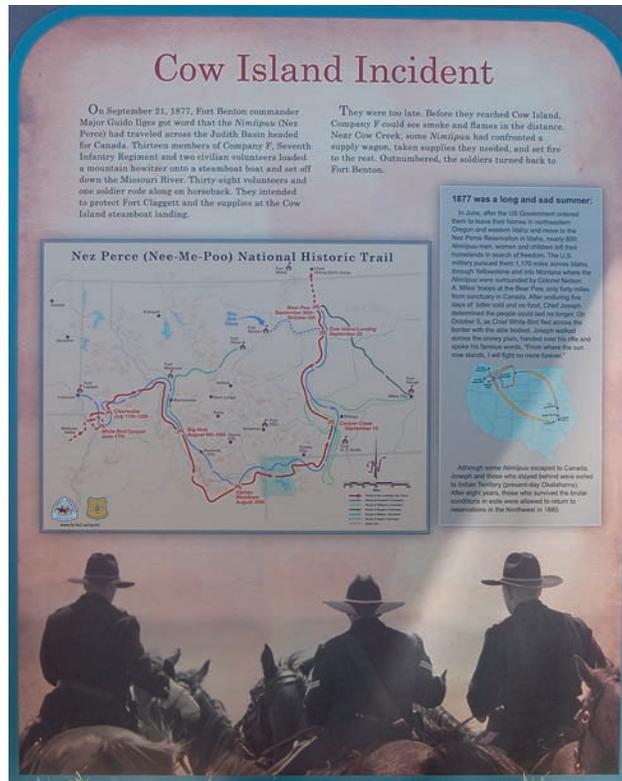
A trail from the interpretive site leads to the newly constructed BLM Upper Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center. This new building was formally dedicated on June 25.



Bob Doerk, River and Plains Society

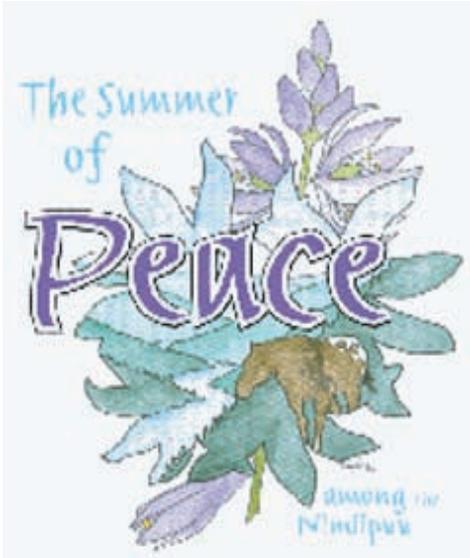


Fort Benton Interpretive Site



Fort Benton Interpretive Panel

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Events



Summer of Peace Among the Nimiipuu

This summer was the last year of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. There were numerous activities along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail commemorating the Expedition's 1806 return home. A significant segment of their route through the Bitterroot Mountains as well as Captain Clark's return over the Continental Divide at Gibbon's Pass parallels the NPNHT. Throughout the planning for the Bicentennial, the Forest Service made it a priority to coordinate and integrate projects and resource protection measures for both trails along this shared route. This included highlighting the NPNHT and protecting heritage resources along both trails at the three Bicentennial events in Idaho and Montana.

From June 5-17, 2006, the National Park Service sponsored **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years Into the Future** exhibit occupied the

Lewis-Clark State College campus in Lewiston, Idaho. This exhibit has been traveling along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail since 2003. It is an exhibit tent and a performance tent titled, "The Tent of Many Voices."

The NPNHT presentations given by Christine Bradbury and Sandi McFarland highlighted preservation and a Nez Perce game called hoop and stick. Over 4,000 school children and several thousand adults visited the Discovery Expo of federal agency exhibits. Sandi McFarland presented two programs in the "Tent of Many Voices." The video, "Landscape of History," was shown throughout the day.

We would like to thank all those people who took the time to help out at our tent. A big thanks goes to Steve Staab and Erika Schuering.



NPNHT tent at the Discovery Expo of federal agency exhibits at the LCSC campus in Lewiston, Idaho

At the **Lewis and Clark in the Rockies Festival** in western Montana, the Lolo Trail was featured by the Lolo National Forest with numerous exhibits on display at the Southgate Mall in Missoula. The Lolo Trail Center had one of the NPNHT exhibits displayed.

To finish off the Bicentennial events in Montana, the Custer National Forest featured the NPNHT at the **Clark on the Yellowstone Signature Event** in Billings, Montana, sharing the Forest Service exhibit space with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Among these three events, thousands of people viewed the NPNHT exhibit and took home a brochure or promotional item displaying the trail's website.

We would like to thank Margaret Gorski, Northern Region Tourism and Interpretation Program Leader; Carol Hennessey, Clearwater National Forest Bicentennial Coordinator; and Kris Perry, Clearwater National Forest Assistant Bicentennial Coordinator for their continued enthusiasm during the past ten years in planning this event. These three ladies have put a lot of hard work and time into doing a great job in representing the Forest Service Northern Region.

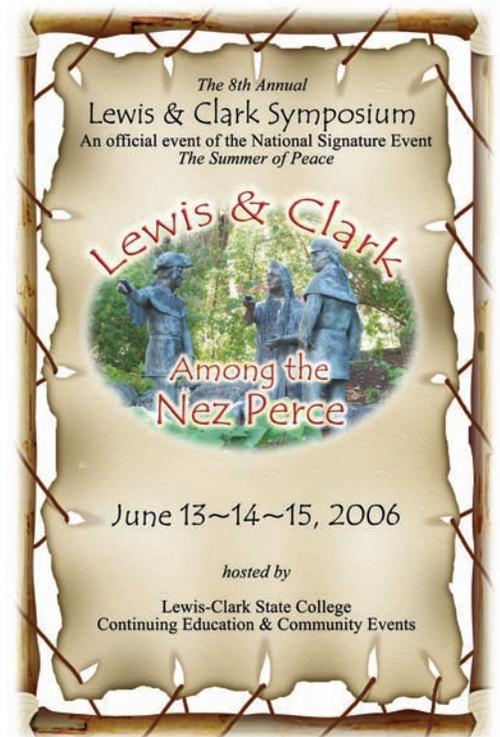
Eighth Annual Lewis and Clark Symposium

Lewis and Clark Among the Nez Perce

The 8th annual Lewis and Clark Symposium occurred between June 13-15 and was a collaborative effort involving the Nez Perce Tribe and Lewis-Clark State College to provide an opportunity to explore, discuss and reflect on the rendezvous that occurred two centuries ago between the two cultures.

On June 12, Sandi McFarland and Carolyn Steiner introduced the Nez Perce Trail traveling educational trunk to 65 fourth- and eighth-grade teachers of Idaho. The trunk was well received, and it looks to have a lot of use come next school year. The next day Sandi was a requested tour guide for the all-day field trip along the trail as well as living history presentations at the Living History Heritage Days.

Other presentations included “Seven Generations Past and Future” by Aaron Miles, Nez Perce Tribe Department of Natural Resources Director; “The Nimiipuu: Legacies Within an Enduring Landscape and People” by Nakia Cloud Williamson; and “The Most Hospitable, Honest and Sincere People” by Dayton Duncan, keynote speaker.



Lewis and Clark Living History Heritage Days

The Lewis and Clark Living History Heritage Days were located at Long Camp RV Park on the river near Kamiah, Idaho. Various presenters covered what life skills were needed to survive during the Lewis and Clark era. Demonstrations were ongoing daily from June 12-18 by artisans and craftsmen carrying on these traditional skills. Sandi McFarland presented two living history presentations on June 13.

Weippe Camas Festival 2006

It was 200 years ago that Lewis and Clark and members of the Corps of Discovery arrived at present-day Weippe, Idaho. This year, 161 walkers and runners registered for the Retreat to Weippe held on May 27. The rain held off till later in the day, and the weather was perfect for the event.

The cool, wet conditions over Memorial Day weekend caused a decrease in attendance but not in enthusiasm, as festival goers enjoyed watching demonstrations by a local man scraping and tanning hides, a local girl showing others how to make Native American type jewelry, and 11 other vendors showing and selling their products and crafts. Food from buffalo burgers, Indian tacos, and pies to cotton candy was available.

The performances of guest celebrities over the two-day event brought great comments from all in attendance. More than 100 folks learned new and different aspects about Sacajawea, Captain Lewis and the Corps meeting the Nez Perce.

The sponsors that made much of this possible were the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and the Clearwater National Forest. The NPNHT supplied water bottles for the participants of the “Retreat to Weippe” Race.



Two members of the Bitterroot Corps hand out water bottles supplied by the NPNHT.

Hoofbeats Along the NPNHT

Clearwater Crossing Dedication

On May 26, Aaron Penney and Emmit Taylor II of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPAPHC) carried the colors on horseback for the ceremony dedicating the new interpretive site just west of Orofino, Idaho. Two large silhouettes and interpretive panels describe the history of this stretch of water that was used as a ford by the Nez Perce for generations and then later by trappers, miners and settlers. One of the panels has a photo of two riders crossing the river here.



Aaron Penney and Emmit Taylor II
Clearwater Crossing Dedication

Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club Youth Trail Ride

After long months of planning, 15 NPAPHC youth, 24 adult horse wranglers and camp crew and 28 horses participated in a trail ride starting at the Musselshell Meadow trailhead on July 26. This trail ride covered approximately 45 miles riding east along the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails to Sherman Saddle where the riders left the NPNHT and descended the Sherman Creek Trail to Highway 12 at Wilderness Gateway Campground.

Chet Hagen, Nez Perce Tribe's Fisheries Watershed Biologist, spoke to the group about the harm that noxious weeds have on the land and wildlife and the importance of identifying and eradicating these weeds.



Watering up at Wilderness Gateway

Photo courtesy of Kelly Andersson.

Everyone was asked to write some thoughts about the ride once they got home. The kids had nothing but positive comments about the whole experience in spite of long days in the saddle, some challenging trails and some hurts. The organizers are grateful to the Creator (*Qe'ceyem-yem, Hunyemat*) that the overall ride, which was a huge undertaking, went so well.

This trail ride was partially funded through a U. S. Forest Service Centennial of Service cost share grant. The NPNHT administrator's office would like to thank all those who made this a success.

Camas Festival



Jalessa Oyenque on Hotswal
Weippe Camas Festival

About 20 NPAPHC members camped at Fraser Park near Weippe, Idaho the night of May 26 to enjoy trail riding. On May 27, members paraded in traditional regalia and gave a presentation about the Appaloosa horse during a cool wet Camas Festival in Weippe, Idaho.

Learning on the Trail

National Trails Day

Carolyn Steiner, NPNHT Information and Education Specialist, visited Mrs. Victorine's, Mrs. Opdahl's and Mrs. Brewer's first-grade classes at the Orofino Elementary School on May 31, 2006. Carolyn's first and very popular presentation was a hands-on presentation of local wildlife pelts. As always, the kids really got into this one with Bigfoot, the lynx, growling at the kids that pulled his tail. Next the kids made "parfleches" out of construction paper. Parfleches (par flesh) are a large rawhide suitcase used to carry food, clothing and other items. They were easy to store and could be stacked on a travois for moving.

Finally we let the kids run off some of their energy in the ever popular Nimiipuu double ball relay race.



Traditional Parfleche

Summer Stay-in-School Program

This summer we were once again able to help fund Steve Staab as a Summer Stay-in-School employee. Steve helped us at our tent during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial events June 5-16 in Lewiston, Idaho. Thank you Steve, for your help. He also spent much of the summer helping Bob Kirtland, Clearwater National Forest Survey Technician.

Traveling Educational Trunks

Hey, they are finally here! Well, not really. We announced them on the news page, and homeschoolers started requesting them, so currently they are all being used by educators at the time of this printing. We are very excited to see the interest these educational trunks have sparked. If you are interested in borrowing one of the trunks or would like more information, contact Carolyn Steiner at cssteiner@fs.fed.us or 208.476.8227.

If you do borrow the educational trunks, please do not hesitate to make comments. We want to continue to make these the best educational tool we can with your help!



Preparing for Academic Excellence (PACE)

The ninth annual Preparing for Academic Excellence Math and Science Camp was held this summer, with a variety of programs in natural resources and the environment. Thirty students attended the camp from seven tribes and one Pacific Island: Nez Perce, Yakama, Siletz, Shoshone-Paiute, Pit River, Cherokee, Assiniboine Sioux and the Samoan Islands.

Chris Jenkins, Clearwater National Forest Heritage Program Manager, introduced them to archaeology and used the activity, "A Stewardship Poster," from our education guide as a great message about preserving history. Chris and Carolyn Steiner handed out construction paper, glue and magazines to the kids to make posters about every day life.

Chris discussed how strata builds up in layers of earth and artifacts are laid down in each layer with the oldest at the bottom and the newest items at the top. The students observed the natural phenomenon of earth layers building and how archaeologists reconstruct the layers of an archaeological site. Chris started tearing layers (posters) up, much to the shock and horror of the students, showing how natural disasters, decay, development and vandalism erase information about past cultures. This showed the students why stewardship of historic trails and sites is so very important.

“Who Will Fight No More Forever?”

The Arkansas City High School Music Department’s Fall Choir Concert highlighted a number called, “Who Will Fight No More Forever?” We were contacted by Tim Harmon, Choral Director, who had come across our website and the story of the flight of the Nez Perce. When he shared it with his class, they were so moved that they asked if it would be appropriate to create a musical piece to Chief Joseph’s surrender speech. We agreed, and they used a selection of our NPNHT images to develop a powerpoint to accompany the musical score. This is truly a moving tribute to the Nez Perce people. It is contacts like this from our website that bring another dimension to how people learn about and experience the Nez Perce Trail story.

We would like to thank Tim and his choir for taking the time to produce this number that took a timely look at all people of exile, whether from war, cultural persecution, famine or natural disaster.

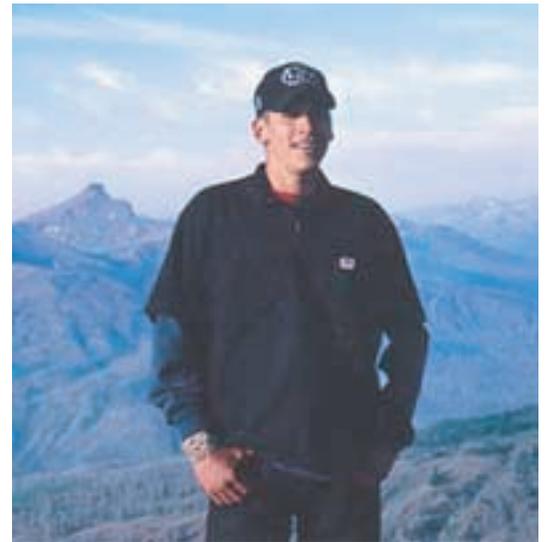
Alex Cross Memorial Nez Perce Trail Scholarship

Stan Hoggatt, Nez Perce Author, Historian and Photographer, along with his Nez Perce Trail pack trip companion for many years, Marshall Dominick from Cody, Wyoming, have nearly completed their preparation for their final Nez Perce Trail pack trip across the Absaroka Divide. This year is special for Stan and Marshall because they, along with their wives Suzie Hoggatt and Bettye Dominick, are pleased to announce the creation of the "Alex Cross Memorial Nez Perce Trail Scholarship" in cooperation with Alex Cross's mother, Darla Jackson, of Kamiah, Idaho.

It seems fitting that the final research pack trip of the Nez Perce Trail in the high country of Yellowstone National Park provides for a memorial scholarship honoring the memory of Alex Cross. Young Alex was supposedly the first Nez Perce youth to visit the Hoodoo Basin area. Also, Alex was the first recipient of the Nez Perce Trail Scholarship. Tragically Alex was killed in a vehicle accident after completing his first year of college.

This year’s memorial scholarship recipient will participate in the final research pack trip departing from the 7D Ranch en route to the Hoodoo Basin area and other destinations along the Nez Perce Trail. This year’s team will focus their field research on which of two possible routes Chief Looking Glass could have taken from the Upper Lamar Valley.

If you would like more information about the scholarship please visit <http://www.nezperce.com>.



Alex Cross



Members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club taking part in the Youth Trail Ride at the Musselshell Trailhead.

Photo courtesy of Rosa Yearout



National Park Service News

Somers named Nez Perce National Historical Park Superintendent

Dr. Gary Somers has been named the new Superintendent for the Nez Perce National Historical Park at Spalding, Idaho. Gary is a 32-year veteran of the National Park Service with over 20 years experience in the field of archaeology, cultural resources and working with American Indians. His current post is as Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, where he has been since 1998. Gary will report to Spalding the end of August.

Marie Marek says good-bye

Marie Marek, Chief of Interpretation at the Nez Perce National Historical Park, is leaving for a new adventure at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. Marie will serve as their Chief of Interpretation and Education. She has been at the Nez Perce National Historical Park since 1996.

Thank you Marie for all of your invaluable service and dedication to the NPNHT. You will be missed!

Canoe Park Gets a New Look

The park's Canoe Camp site has reopened to visitors with expanded parking, pedestrian trails, new restrooms and interpretive panels. A bulletin board, flagstaff and two interpretive panels connecting the historic site with the adjoining Northwest Passage Scenic Byway will be installed this fall.

The \$433,000 construction project culminated three years of site preparation, encompassing land acquisition, two environmental assessments, property subdivision, residential relocation, structural demolition and archaeological mitigation. This work was done through the cooperation and assistance of an array of NPS staff, state and local officials and the Nez Perce Tribe.

“By improving public safety and enjoyment, Canoe Camp will be a lasting legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial,” said Idaho Unit Manager Scott Eckberg. “The project also demonstrates the good that can be done when people pool their talents and knowledge to achieve a mutual goal.”

Canyon Creek Wayside

The National Park Service, NPNHT and the Friends of Bear Paw, Big Hole and Canyon Creek Battlefields have worked to get adequate interpretation for the Canyon Creek Battlefield for the past several years. We are proud to see this project completed and the waysides installed. The NPNHT administration will be installing three additional interpretive signs this fall to complete the story.



Spalding's Cathfly Inventory

In order to properly plan for future management of the Old Chief Joseph Cemetery site of the Nez Perce National Historical Park, an inventory of Spalding's Cathfly (a threatened and endangered plant) was completed on August 3. This site includes 5.1 acres of Indian Trust Land and 7.9 acres of NPS land. Colonies have been reported on the property in the past. External developments continue to surround the site, and it is critical that the NPS knows the full extent of the resources. This will allow the National Park Service to mitigate external impacts and better explain to the public what effects these developments have upon the public resources within the site. For more information contact Tim Nitz at Timothy_Nitz@nps.gov.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail in Yellowstone National Park

During the third week of April 2006, the Yellowstone Center for Resources (Ethnography Program), Yellowstone's Division of Interpretation (Branch of Planning and Media) and the Yellowstone Park Foundation hosted three days of meetings that brought together Nez Perce, academic and government scholars to identify the interpretive topics about the Yellowstone segment of the NPNHT. Funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, the meeting provided a rare opportunity for scholars from different disciplines and experiences to converge in Yellowstone and provide information that will be used in a variety of ways to interpret the 1877 Nez Perce War as it relates to events in Yellowstone National Park.

The outcome of the meeting far surpassed expectations. Scholars engaged in extensive and lively discussions about the meaning and significance of the 1877 war and war-related sites in Yellowstone National Park. In addition, participants devoted time to the pre-war context in 1877, including Nez Perce use of the lands that now comprise Yellowstone; why the Nez Perce came to Yellowstone; and the legacy of post-war pain and suffering, often referred to as "historical trauma." The discussions provided managers with rich and complex information regarding the 1877 war and advice as to how most effectively to convey that information to the public. Participants also visited some of the key sites in Yellowstone where specific information about particular events helped tie these sites to broader contexts and historical perspectives.

The proceedings of the meeting were recorded and are presently being transcribed for future use on the park's official website, and for developing outdoor exhibits and a brochure. Information generated from the meeting will also be used in interpretive services created by the larger NPNHT.

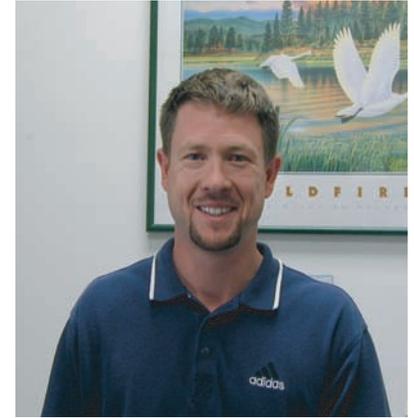


Left to right, Top row: Albert Andrews Redstar, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation; Allen Pinkham, Nez Perce Tribe; Frederick Hoxie, University of Illinois at Urbana; Jerry Mernin, retired YNP Park Ranger; Dave Ruppert, NPS Intermountain Regional Office; Marie Marek, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Alan Marshall, Lewis-Clark State College; Otis Halfmoon, Nez Perce Tribe/NPS Santa Fe Regional Office **Bottom Row:** Kim Sikoryak, NPS Intermountain Regional Office; Rosemary Sucec, YNP; Katie White, YNP; Roberta Conner, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator



Forest Service News

New Ranger at Powell Ranger District



Chad Benson has been named the new ranger at Powell Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest. Chad grew up in a Forest Service family. His dad is a retired firefighter, and his mother is still working in fire/silviculture. Chad lived at the Plains Ranger Station for 12 years with his parents and put himself through college working for the Forest Service.

Chad holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and science. He comes prepared for this job with work experiences in many arenas. In 2002 Chad applied for and accepted a position with the Forest Service as a supervisory civil engineer on the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests where he was until his recent assignment as District Ranger at Powell.

Chad's goals and objectives for Powell are to find ways to efficiently get more work to the ground while strengthening the working relationships throughout our shared zones. Chad can be reached at 208.942.3212.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge Trail Project

Recently the much-awaited new NPNHT construction project began. This two year project is possible through a Participating Agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe. On July 10, the Nez Perce Tribe trail crew hit the trail running. As of this printing three miles of new trail have been constructed of the total 11 mile segment which connects Gibbon Pass to the Big Hole National Battlefield. Parts of this trail are using segments of the Old Yellowstone Trail or Park to Park Highway. The project is to be completed in 2007.

Wallowa-Whitman Auto Tour Brochure in Draft Stage

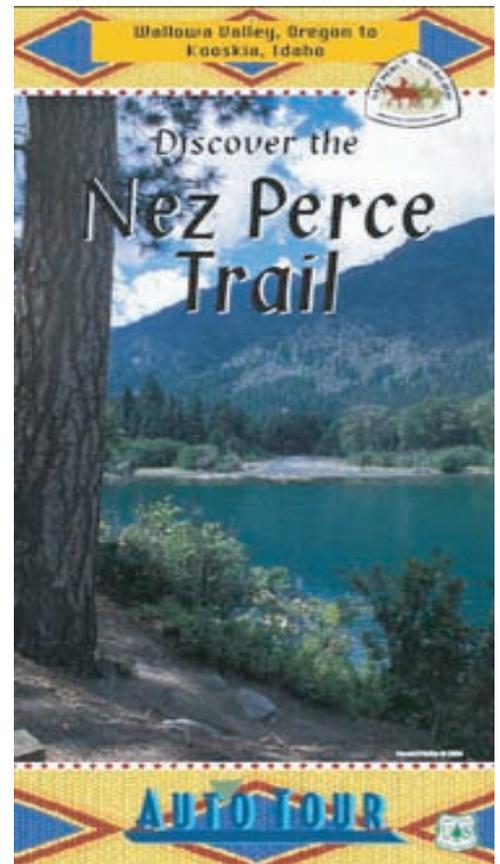
Skip Miller, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Archaeologist, has been working on the Wallowa, Oregon, to Kooskia, Idaho, segment Auto Tour brochure. This brochure will join our family of four other Auto Tour brochures upon finalization. It is currently being circulated to those interested in commenting.



2006 Fire Season Is Here

Currently there are many fires in the West. Some of these fires are large while the majority are very small, but the conditions out there are right for large fires. Most areas in which the NPNHT is located are currently experiencing high to extreme fire dangers. There have been

numerous small fires near the NPNHT which have not impacted the NPNHT. If you are planning a trip on the NPNHT, you may want to contact the local Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service office for area closure and fire restriction information.



Please remember to be careful with fire.

Fins, Feathers and Fur

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News



Annually the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery hosts an open house at their facilities in Ahsahka and Kooskia, Idaho. The highlight of the open house is the kid's fishing day. This year was no exception with 356 kids, 12 and under, taking part in the fishing plus another 500 adults and non fishing participants visiting the Kooskia site.

This year the Fish and Wildlife Service offered an exhibit on Fish and Wildlife Service facilities located in the Pacific Region within federally recognized tribal reservations, as well as information about the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial events. Also highlighted was the Looking Glass/Mill Pond trail site which is part of the NPNHT. On July 1, 1877 Captain Whipple and his group of troopers attacked Looking Glass' neutral village at this location. There are new signs and brochures available at the hatchery

The Fish & Wildlife Service is also looking forward to working with the Nez Perce Tribe, National Park Service and the Forest Service on developing a Highway 12 interpretive wayside which interprets the Looking Glass site across the river east of Kooskia, Idaho.



Kids fishing at Kooskia Hatchery Raceway
Photo Courtesy of Susan Sawyer

Idaho Department of Fish and Game News

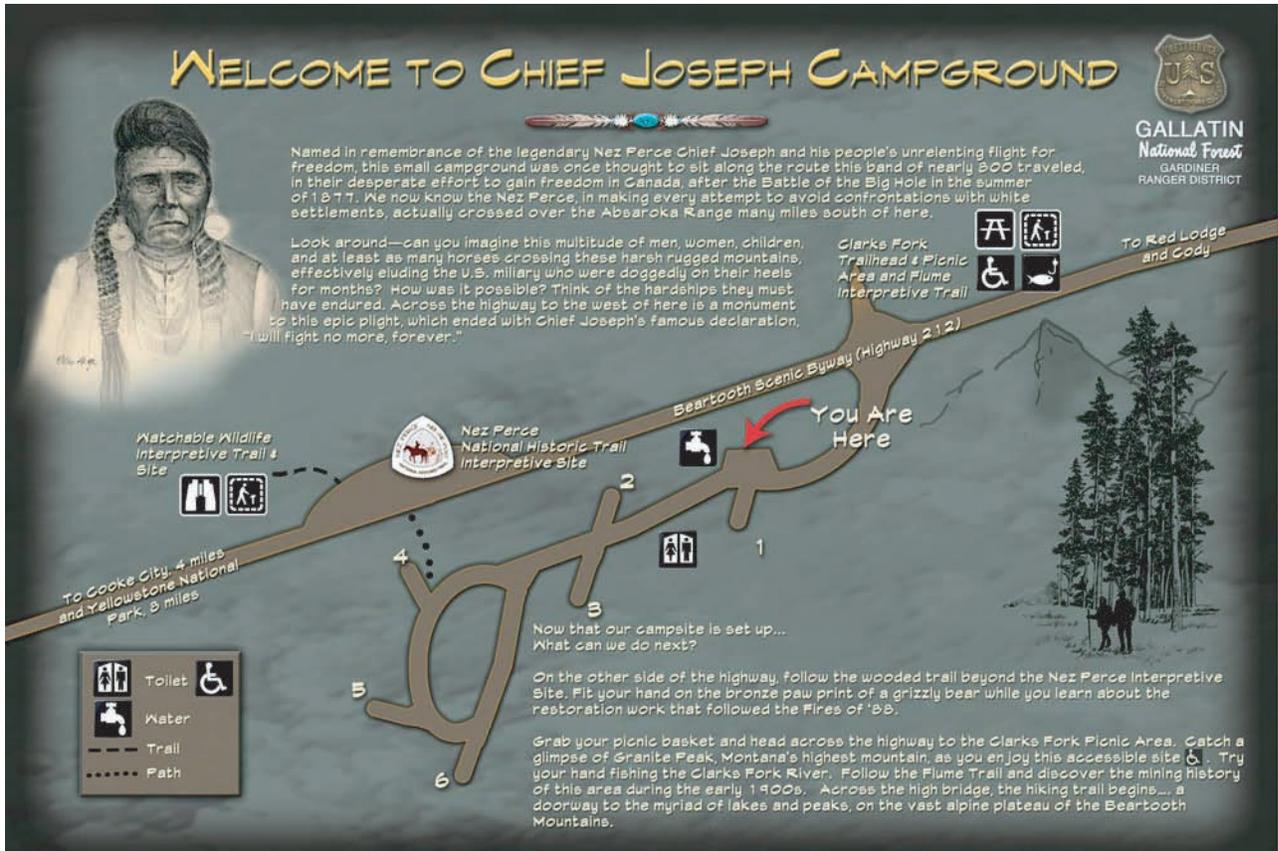
Tolo Lake is a joint component site of the Nez Perce National Historical Park and the NPNHT near Grangeville, Idaho. Tolo Lake is owned by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and is popular with local anglers and hunters. Currently at this site there are only some picnic tables, a boat launch and two worn regulatory signs. There is nothing that tells visitors the story of this site and its relevance to the Nez Perce.

The IDFG would like to improve this site with a permanent restroom and an interpretive exhibit. The Idaho State Historical Society and IDFG would like to install a three-panel interpretive exhibit. One panel would illustrate the 1994 mammoth discovery, a second would illustrate the Nez Perce connection and a third would interpret the Ordway Trail. The Nez Perce National Historical Park would assist in drafting text for the panels with Nez Perce tribal consultation.

Jerome Hansen, IDFG Region 2 Wildlife Habitat Manager has been working with Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Ken Reid to plan this project as well as Scott Eckberg, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Idaho Unit Manager and Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator.

Gallatin Campground Recreation Renovation Project

The Gallatin National Forest has created a family of campground signs. Landscape Architect Jane Ruchman explained “It was my goal to make a campground map more than just a map...but help campers understand more about the site in which they are camping.” This family of signs will be found at the Colter, Soda Butte and Chief Joseph campgrounds along the Beartooth Scenic Byway when the current federal highways project is completed.



Chief Joseph Campground Signs



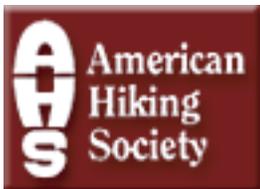
Idaho Governor's Conference on Tourism

On May 17-19, 2006 the Idaho Governor's Conference on Tourism and annual North Central Idaho Travel Association meeting was held in Lewiston, Idaho, at the Red Lion Motel.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail Public Affairs Specialist Christine Bradbury and Clearwater National Forest Assistant Bicentennial Coordinator Kristina Perry co-presented to regional frontliners May 17. They described the history of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark, which consists of the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails. They also shared the variety of ways to enjoy the routes, from the more adventurous hiking paths along ridgetops to the scenic Highway 12 auto tour.

The following day Carolyn Steiner visited with participants of the conference, particularly municipal visitor center managers and employees interested in the NPNHT's Auto Tour brochures.

The NPNHT was drawn to receive a free 1/4-page advertisement in the Yellowstone Association Magazine. Good going, Christine, for signing us up for this.



Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week 2006

Sandi McFarland participated in the Trails Advocacy Week 2006 from February 12 through February 18. Sandi met with the Partnership for the National Trails System Leadership Council meeting at the Holiday Inn Central in Washington, DC, during Trails Advocacy Week. She attended agency meetings with the BLM; Forest Service Chief's Office; Mark Rey, Under Secretary Department of Agriculture, National Resources and Environment; Thomas Weimer, Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget. Sandi also attended sessions with both the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittees. Agenda items for the above meetings included funding, interagency budget coordination, challenge cost share funding, travel restrictions, National Park Service reorganization, trails funding allocation, training certifications, geographic information systems (GIS) and data standards and management policies.

National Historic Trails Conference

The Partnership for the National Trail System held a conference in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 5-7 to discuss issues affecting national historic trails. Sandi McFarland attended this conference along with Margaret Gorski, Northern Region Tourism and Interpretation Program Leader.

Sandi identified three major issues concerning the NPNHT in a round-robin discussion:

1. Future funding for NPNHT extension consideration. The current designated trail of 1170 miles doesn't include the entire trail story. Additional sites include Fort Vancouver, Canada, and the exile to Kansas and Oklahoma.
2. Importance of trail extension to include "entire" trail story.
3. Need for active NPNHT land acquisition program around high priority areas which may be compromised through commercial development.

Nez Perce Trail Foundation executive board member Carolynne Merrell served on a panel that discussed preservation and protection of trail resources.

Nez Perce Trail Foundation Annual Membership and Educational Meeting

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation held their annual meeting August 11-12, 2006, in Cody, Wyoming, at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. New officers are Charlie Moses, Jr., President; Carol Austin, First Vice-President; Dick Seymour, Second Vice-President; Lynn Fleming, Treasurer; and Carolynne Merrell, Secretary. Highlights of the meeting were the tours to Clark's Fork and Dead Indian Pass and to the Plains Indian Museum. Keynote speaker Deb Salt, BLM National Trails Program Manager, unveiled the BLM's National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan.



Upcoming Events this Fall

Nez Perce Trail Site Certification - Tonkawa, Oklahoma

The Nez Perce Trail Site Certification Project is developing interpretive signs for three sites that are outside the Congressionally designated NPNHT but are still significant to the Nez Perce Trail. The first two signs were unveiled in November at Baxter Spring, Kansas, and Bicentennial Park near Quapaw, Oklahoma. For more information about these two previous site certifications visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/quapaw>. The third sign will be installed at the Nez Perce Cemetery in Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

There is a site certification ceremony planned for Saturday, September 16, 2006, at the Nez Perce Cemetery in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, beginning at 9 a.m. A tribal reception is to follow at the Henry L. Allen Building at 11:30 a.m.

These certification events are free and open to the public. A limited number of scholarships will be available for Nez Perce descendants to reimburse a portion of their travel expenses to Oklahoma. For a scholarship application or more information about these events contact Brian McCormack at 208.798.3249 or Crystal White at 208.305.3211. For additional information visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/news/sitecertflyer.pdf>.

This is a cooperative project with the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, McCormack Landscape Design and the NPNHT Administration.

National Trails Symposium

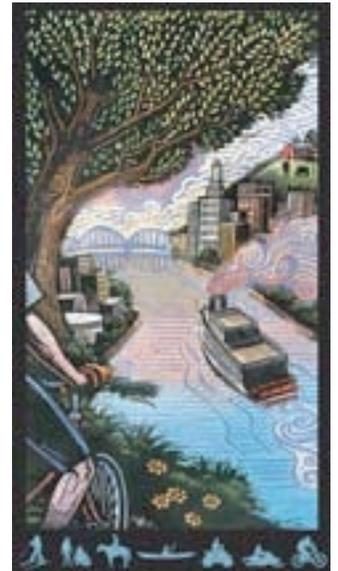
American Trails is pleased to announce that the 18th National Trails Symposium will be held October 19-22, 2006, in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois. The symposium will be held at the River Center Convention Center in Davenport, Iowa, while the awards banquet will be held at the adjacent Adler Theatre. The theme for this year's symposium is "Trails for America: Every Where, Every Way, Every Day."

The symposium provides an opportunity for trails advocates, managers, planners, and users, outdoor product providers, as well as conservationists, private landowners, and tourism and business interests to come together for an inspirational and educational conference. The symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized issues and vision for trails nationwide.

The symposium program will feature cutting-edge workshops and educational sessions delivered by respected national and local experts, an array of new trail topic mini-workshops, events and field trips, outstanding recreational opportunities, an impressive exhibition hall, and much more.

Sandi McFarland will lead a dynamic discussion on methods for developing a trail documentary, including partnership and funding options.

For more information on the National Trails Symposium visit <http://www.americantrails.org/quad/index.html>.



Nez Perce Ride to Freedom, August 29-31, 2006

The "Nez Perce Ride to Freedom" is sponsored as a joint venture between the Nez Perce Trail Foundation and the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada. It will be a three-day event honoring the Nez Perce people who fled from the Bear Paw Battlefield in 1877 and sought refuge in Canada.

The acceptance by the Canadian people of this group of Nez Perce is why this ride is happening. This event will celebrate and honor a chapter of the Nez Perce story of flight during the War of 1877. The ride will focus on those Nez Perce who fled the battle at the Bear Paw and followed White Bird into Canada. In October 1877, the North West Mounted Police were monitoring the situation very closely, and reports from them confirm the arrival of many Nez Perce with some 300 head of horses at Sitting Bull's camp in Saskatchewan. Chief White Bird of the Nez Perce then traveled to Fort Walsh at Cypress Hills to determine the next step for his people.

For more information visit http://nezpercetrail.net/images/App_RideToFreedom.pdf.

Coordination and Communication

Nez Perce Trail Interagency Coordination Meeting

A second interagency coordination meeting was held February 7 in Missoula, Montana, to help with getting projects completed on the NPNHT.

The five key topics of this meeting were:

1. Continued discussion about the Comprehensive Management Plan. It was decided to form a working group that would report back to Sandi by May 1, 2006, with their comments.
2. Continued discussion about the Interpretive Strategy. It was decided to form a working group that would report back to Sandi by August 15, 2006, with their comments.
3. How to effectively work with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.
4. How to improve communication with interested parties, in particular tribes.
5. The development of an electronic system for all agencies and partners to view proposed projects for a given year or future years.

Our goal is to build a strong spirit of cooperation and coordination among all agency people. These meetings will continue to be an important opportunity for agency personnel to develop strong working networks. By sharing our experiences, knowledge, resources and skills we will achieve greater efficiency and get projects done along the NPNHT.

Nez Perce Trail Partner Planning Meeting

Earlier this spring the Nez Perce Trail Foundation requested a partner planning meeting with the NPNHT administration and the Northern Region. Due to very busy schedules this meeting could not be scheduled until July 26 in Lewiston, Idaho at the Red Lion Convention Center. All agency and non-agency partners, including the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, Nez Perce Tribe, Colville Confederated Tribe, Umatilla Confederated Tribe, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club and many other past, present and potentially interested partners and friends were invited.

Thirty-one participants representing tribes, land management agencies, and partners came together to identify common ground and trail-wide priorities and to learn about upcoming opportunities to share in the stewardship of the NPNHT. A moving video provided by the Arkansas City High School Choir of their fall concert commemorating the 1877 war opened the interactive day-long session. Participants broke into small groups to tackle tough questions like, "Where do you think we should focus our attention for managing the NPNHT in the next decade?" and "What criteria should the government consider when choosing and funding cost-share projects?"

The worthwhile meeting brought a diverse group of partners together to share ideas that will strengthen the management of the Nez Perce Trail.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all of the partners and agencies, volunteer groups and communities for your dedication and hard work accomplished.

Sandi McFarland

What's New with the Website

The NPNHT continues to make additions and changes to the website so please visit it from time to time for these changes.

One of our latest additions is a "Nez Perce Jeopardy Game" that can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/jeopardy/jeopardy.htm>. This was a collaborative effort between Ed Lozar, Clearwater National Forest Webmaster, and our own Carolyn Steiner. The original idea to use the jeopardy game as an educational tool came from Jane Cottrell, Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor.

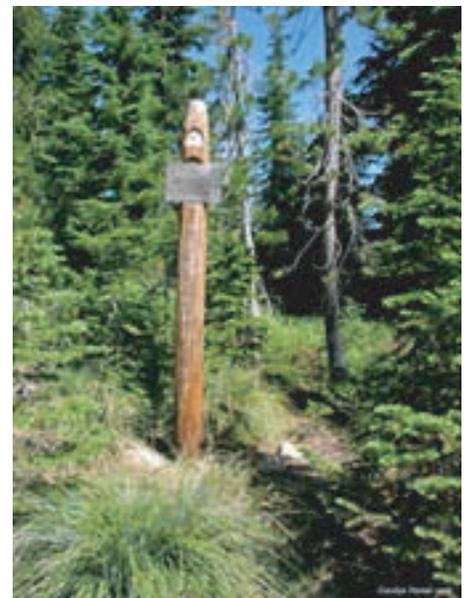
Nez Perce National Historic Trail Jeopardy					
Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT)	Nez Perce Chiefs and Warriors	Places along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail	U.S. Military	Battles of the Nez Perce Campaign	Hodge Podge
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000

Another addition is our NPNHT calendar with upcoming events as well as the historical events highlighted. This calendar is in pdf format so please be patient for it to load as additional months are added. Due to increased interest in site certification we have added our certification guide to the website, and this can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/cert/certificationguide.pdf>. We have also added project information and this can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/npnht/publications>.

Please send us your photos of the trail at cssteiner@fs.fed.us or smcfarland01@fs.fed.us. You may just see it as the photo of the month! Please remember we also like hearing your stories and poems.

NPNHT Natural History Activity and Coloring Book

We will soon be introducing a new activity and coloring book that highlights the natural history of the NPNHT. Currently these activity books are in draft stage and out for comment.

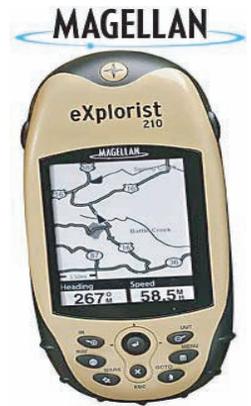


Geocachers Encouraged to Tread Lightly

Geocaching has become one of the hottest new forms of recreation. What is geocaching? Geocaching is where people use global positioning systems (GPS) to direct searchers to hidden treasures or “caches.” Caches are usually low-priced items and are most often placed in backcountry settings. There are at least 250,000 caches on any given day.

There are concerns that geocaching’s popularity will take a toll on the nation’s public land if not done responsibly. Some of the bad consequences of irresponsible geocaching are damaged vegetation, disrupted wildlife and damaged cultural sites.

“Tread Lightly!,” a nonprofit organization that educates people to recreate responsibly, recently released tips to help geocachers minimize their impact on the outdoors.



Tips for Responsible Geocaching

- * Check with local land managers to determine regulations before placing or searching for a cache. The National Park Service has strict geocaching regulations.
- * Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the NPNHT except where designated.
- * Use the “track back” feature on your GPS unit rather than flagging and marking trails.
- * In addition to your GPS always carry extra batteries, a map, compass and know how to use them.
- * Practice the “lift, look, replace” technique. If you lift a rock to look under it, replace it exactly as you found it.
- * Following a trip, wash your gear to reduce the spread of invasive species.
- * Traditional geocaching is not appropriate in areas designated as wilderness.

Cache Placers

- * Avoid sensitive areas including cultural sites, wetlands, caves and steep slopes.
- * Avoid burying a cache.
- * It is the cache owner’s responsibility to maintain the cache and the surrounding area. If the cache area becomes impacted confer with the landowner on how to properly mitigate the impacts.
- * Never place food items in the cache.

Cache Seekers

- * Use maps to find a route that will minimize impact.
- * If you notice a path has started to wear in the vicinity of a cache. notify the cache owner via email.
- * When allowed to hike off designated trails, spread out in open country.
- * After you’ve finished searching for a cache, the area should look as though you were never there.

Additional tips for responsible geocaching are available on the Tread Lightly! website at <http://www.treadlightly.org>.

Leave No Trace Cell Phone Use

It is recognized that many outdoor recreationists carry cell phones for safety and emergencies. Please be considerate of other visitors. When using your cell phone, try to be out-of-sight of other visitors. Keep them turned off until needed or at least left in a pocket on “vibrate” or “silent” ringer settings. Many people visit the outdoors to get away from technology. Please respect their desire to get away from civilization.

Be self-reliant, whether carrying a cell phone or not. Don’t leave ill-prepared or engage in risky action just because you have a cell phone to call for rescue. Also, remember that there are many remote areas along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail where cell phone coverage is limited or non-existent.