



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report*

Winter 2021

Administrator's Corner

There are three lessons I hope to carry with me from 2020:

1. Approach everything with flexibility.
2. Listening is the first step in learning.
3. Family and community is everything.

2020 kept us on our toes. We started off the year with ambitious plans for collaborating even more with community partners on events and projects. Of course, those plans were put on hold as our world shifted and transformed in a thousand different ways. This year, our yearly recap looks a little different as our impact lives more online.

Most of us remember a time when discovery and the thrill of learning often took place in a classroom. Online learning is our focus: we have updated the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Auto Tours brochures and are adding new infographs to our website, and updating our wildlife and people's pages by adding new profiles. This work is being done by our Virtual Interns, read more about what they are doing on page 4. The graphic on this page was created by Valda Black from WSU.

Photographs are more than just snapshots. They can transport you to distant landscapes, capture fleeting moments, and recall cherished memories along the trail. Check out our new images being added to the brochures and website. Our interns are working on even more projects that will be revealed in the coming months! Our goal is to continue to provide an "insider's view" of the unique NPNHT history.

We are approaching 2021 with the same lessons we learned in 2020. As we kick off the New Year, we are humbled and grateful for our supporters in commitment, dedication, and generosity of your time and resources. Our volunteer-led team remains dedicated to serving our community, uplifting underrepresented voices, and fostering dialogue around the NPNHT and Auto Tour Route.

From all of us at the NPNHT Program, thank you for being a part of our community in 2020. As we move into 2021, we look forward to a better future.

"It is time, I know it...Teach the children. The Grandfathers and the Grandmothers are in the children. If we educate them, our children tomorrow will be wiser than we are today. They're the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of tomorrow." Wisdom Keepers.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



Nez Perce
National Historic Trail

February
2021



Nez Perce Tribe Acquires Historic Hayes Farm in Northeast Oregon

On Wednesday, December 9, the Nez Perce Tribe completed the purchase of the historic Hayes Farm just west of Joseph, OR, and south of the Chief Joseph Days rodeo grounds on Airport Road.

The 148-acre property holds great cultural and historical significance for the Nez Perce. According to a press release, the property includes 3/4 of a mile of Wallowa River frontage that may be important in future fisheries management, according to Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands Chairman James Monteith.

Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman Shannon Wheeler and Secretary Rachel Edwards were there to complete the paperwork.

“This has been a project in the works for some time, and there were several people involved in making this purchase a reality,” Wheeler said. “This purchase is a wonderful step in the reestablishment of a Nez Perce presence in the homeland of our people. We know our ancestors are smiling to see us returning home.”

The property is the second-oldest Century Farm in Wallowa County. Located mostly along the terminal moraine just west of Joseph, it includes what is known as Indian Ridge and Am’sáaxpa (a place of boulders). The property extends from the western edge of the rodeo grounds nearly a mile south to just west of where Ski Run Road crosses Wallowa River. It includes the house, built in 1884, and barns, cultivated acreage, old growth trees and grassland, as well as riparian river frontage. The property also offers a pristine view of the Wallowa Mountains. The farm’s property includes a Nez Perce village site, and is known as a council site for Chief Joseph. The Nez Perce village and teepees are shown in photos at the Wallowa County Historical Society.

The Hayes farm property’s historical significance includes a meeting between Chief Joseph, accompanied by armed Nez Perce warriors, and U.S. Army Lt. Albert Forse in 1876. The meeting averted immediate conflict between Joseph’s W’al’wama band and the U.S. Army, when Lt. Forse dismounted, laid down his carbine, and walked up the ridge to meet Joseph, who also dismounted and laid down his weapon, according to Grace Bartlett’s book “From the Wallawas,” which briefly describes the Indian Ridge encounter.

During the spring of 1877, Chief Joseph and his band were forced out of the Wallowa Valley. His band at this point consisted of about 400 people, with approximately only 60 warriors. They headed for the Nez Perce reservation in Idaho, crossing the Snake River at what is now Dug Bar in Hells Canyon. At the time they did not know it, but Joseph’s band would never be allowed to return to its homeland. Acquisition of this property will allow the tribe to continue its efforts to preserve its footprint in the area.

The tribe is in the long process of developing plans for the Hayes Farm property. The tribe’s initial statement on December 9 was simply “Today marks a momentous occasion. We’re coming home!”

By Ellen Morris Bishop Wallowa County Chieftain

Travelers’ Rest State Park Hosts Special Exhibit and Winter Story Tellers

Winter Storytelling is underway at Travelers’ Rest State Park. Our theme this year comes from a traveling exhibit we’ll have in the Visitor Center. Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark on view at Travelers' Rest State Park from January 9 - March 6.

Visitor Center Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Capacity is limited and masks are required indoors for safety.

Using cutting-edge scientific techniques and methods as old as humanity, Lewis and Clark spent three years creating a new portrait of America so persuasive it changed the future. This exhibit uses large-scale reproductions of historic maps and photos alongside explanatory text to show how America looked before the journey of Lewis and Clark and how it changed afterward. In 2021, Winter Storytelling at Travelers' Rest features diverse speakers reflecting on the theme of Reimagining America.

Live on Zoom on Saturdays at 11 a.m. Select presentations may be recorded.

- 2/6 Carolyn Gilman, The Maps of Lewis & Clark
- 2/13 Jamie Jonkel, Grizzly Bear Encounters
- 2/20 Milo McLeod, Secrets of the Jocko Lakes Fire
- 2/27 DG House & Frank Finley, Native American Art
- 3/6 Caroline Patterson, Montana Women Writers

For additional information please visit: <https://www.travelersrest.org/winter-storytelling.html>



Major Improvements Coming to Fort Owen State Park

Major access, interpretation, and historic preservation improvements are coming to Fort Owen State Park (Photo Right) thanks to a grant from Helmsley Charitable Trust.

The Montana State Parks Foundation in partnership with The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and the Friends of Fort Owen announced the grant recently that will be used to preserve and enhance the historical and educational resources at Fort Owen State Park.

The \$507,500 grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust will be used to preserve and restore the original trading post structures, including repairs to the adobe walls, the roofs, and foundation. Additionally, improving and expanding the interpretive, cultural, and historical displays held within the buildings and other locations within the Park will take place in the next two years.

Accessing Fort Owen State Park, which is currently limited, will also be addressed by improving road access, building additional visitor parking and providing new access for school and tour buses. These improvements will enhance the visitor experience and will allow the Park to become accessible to people of all abilities.

Fort Owen is a significant attraction in the Bitterroot Valley, and the improved visitor infrastructure and amenities will allow Montana State Parks and the local community to showcase the park as a destination for cultural tourists from around the world.

“Fort Owen holds significant historical value as an early American settlement,” said Walter Panzirer, a Trustee for the Helmsley Charitable Trust. “The Helmsley Charitable Trust is excited to fund the important work of restoring and preserving this historic site as well as improving education opportunities.”

The Fort Owen trading post, now the core of Fort Owen State Park, is extremely significant in the early history of Montana and the inland Northwest. It became an important touchstone first for fur traders, Native American tribes, Jesuits, and U.S. government officials, followed by prospectors traveling to gold fields in the 1860s, and then homesteaders and early ranchers in the 1870s and 1880s. Indeed, Fort Owen was the only significant European-style settlement that was present through all of these extraordinary periods of the mid to late 1800s in Montana’s history.

“As Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) continue to look to enhance the Montana outdoor experience, these cultural treasures will remain critical,” said FWP director Martha Williams. “Fort Owen is part of our heritage and our story as Montanans. This funding and the generous support of the Helmsley Charitable Trust marks a significant step for the Bitterroot community and the key celebration of an important place in our history.”

Once this unique project is completed, Fort Owen State Park will be better equipped to handle its growing number of visitors and provide first class educational and interpretive resources for the surrounding area.

The Park itself will double in size, and historic structures and incredibly rare historical archaeology will be preserved and interpreted.

Visitors will benefit from improved access and wayfinding, enhanced interpretive information, improved amenities, and additional events at the park. The nearby communities of Stevensville, Hamilton, and Missoula will see increased traffic to local businesses, additional tax revenues, and other ancillary benefits as more visitors come to experience and enjoy Fort Owen State Park.

“It’s always been our mission to improve the visitor experience at our state parks. We’re delighted to help bring together the funding from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, the passion of the local volunteers from the Friends of Fort Owen, and the technical expertise of the folks at Fish, Wildlife and Parks to transform Fort Owen State Park,” said Montana State Parks Foundation executive director Coby Gierke. “When we first looked at options for the park years ago, the situation looked bleak. Now, with this robust group of partners and funding, the future of Fort Owen State Park is very bright.”

Planning for improvements at Fort Owen State Park will begin by conducting an inventory of cultural resources that will inform the design of a new parking area and other park improvements. When this work and planning is complete, the draft development proposal will be available for public review.

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting exceptional efforts in the U.S. and around the world in health and select place-based initiatives.

Since beginning active grantmaking in 2008, Helmsley has committed more than \$2.8 billion for a wide range of charitable purposes. For more information on Helmsley and its programs, visit helmsleytrust.org.

Courtesy of Perry Backus, Ravalli Republic



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



NPNT Virtual Interns Enhancing Trail Visitor Information

Our Virtual Interns Valda Black from Washington State University and Emory Padgett from the University of Montana have been busy doing great work over the past several months. We have already featured some of their work via the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNT) Twitter account over the past several weeks.

On this page you will find a sampling of their work highlighting the updates to the NPNT Wildlife and People's profile pages in the Learning Center section of the NPNT website.

We frequently get requests from people who are planning to travel the Trail asking what books we might recommend. Emory pulled together a "[Reading List](#)" highlighting a few books that visitors might consider reading prior to travel. Emory also produced the people profiles of [Yellow Wolf](#) and [Duncan McDonald](#) (Photos right) and Valda produced the information for the Auto Tour brochures and Wildlife profiles, including one on the [Northern American Beaver](#).

Keep an eye on our website for more work by these two outstanding students that will be coming to the NPNT website and Twitter account in the next few months.



Photo Courtesy of L.V. McWhorter Collection Washington State University



Photo Courtesy of N.A. Forsyth Stereograph Collection Montana Historical Society

NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER

Niimiipuu Name: Táxpol

- Small eyes with clear eyelids to see underwater
- Broad, flat tail to steer while swimming and slap water to signal danger
- Large front teeth that continuously grow to gnaw on wood
- Small, flexible hands for carrying wood and food
- Large, webbed feet for swimming in the water

HABITAT AND FOOD
Beavers live in a wide variety of habitats since they have the ability to modify their environment by building dams and family unit lodges out of wood.
Beavers are foragers, so they gather and carry food back to their territory and lodge. Their diet consists of leaves, twigs, bark, and aquatic vegetation.

BEAVER DAM
Blocks water flow to expand the ideal beaver habitat

BEAVER LODGE
Multi-chamber homes with underwater entrance

FAMILY COLONY
Beavers live in family groups composed to and adult breeding pair and offspring (kits)

NEZ PERCE LEGEND: HOW THE BEAVER STOLE FIRE
Pine Trees used to be the only creatures with fire and would not share this knowledge, even during the freezing winters. One cold day, the Beaver stole a hot coal and ran away from the Pines along the Grande Ronde River until it reached the Snake River. It crossed the river and gave fire to Birches and other trees, which is why humans can make fire when rubbing pieces of wood together.

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NEZ PERCE (NEE-ME-POO) NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Auto Tour 1: Wallowa Valley, OR to Kooskia, ID

TRAIL HISTORY

In 1877, the "non-treaty" Nez Perce (Niimiipuu) were forced to flee their homelands in a futile attempt to avoid war with the U.S. Army. The 1877 war and flight symbolizes the dramatic collision of cultures which continues to shape America and its people.
Auto Tour 1 describes the early days of this flight.

TOUR STOPS

1. Joseph, OR Beginning of Nez Perce flight
2. Iwetemlaykin Site Part of the Nez Perce ancestral homeland
3. Old Chief Joseph Burial Site (Twiliteq's) National Historic Landmark and sacred burial grounds
"This is where I live and there is where I want to leave my body." -Twiliteq's
8. Enterprise, OR Location of Chief Joseph Monument and homeland of Wallowa Band
9. Joseph Canyon, OR Overview of Wallowa Band winter camp
10. Asotin, WA Winter camp of Chief Looking Glass's "non-treaty" band
11. Lewiston, ID In 1862, became trading and supply depot for settlers
12. Spalding, ID Traditional homsite for Thlep-thlep-weyma band
13. Lapwai, ID May 1877, Nez Perce met with military leaders in attempt to remain on their homeland
14. St. Joseph's Mission, ID 1874, first Nez Perce Catholic Mission
15. Cottonwood, ID Confrontation between U.S. Army and Nez Perce
18. White Bird, ID Overlook of first battle between U.S. Army and Nez Perce
19. Grangeville, ID 1877, settlers built a stockade for around Grange Hall
20. Clearwater, ID Battle between the "non-treaty" Nez Perce and U.S. Army
21. Stites, ID Beginning of route used by Nez Perce to cross Bitterroot Mountains east via (K'usey'ne'isiki) the road to the buffalo
22. Kooskia, ID Location of attack on the village of Chief Looking Glass

REMEMBER
Before traveling, check local weather and road conditions

Legend
Routes
Water
Indian Trail
U.S. Highway
State Road

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Bessie “Greene” Scott

(Lewiston Morning Tribune)



Bessie “Greene” Scott, 87, passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at her home in Lapwai, ID.

She was born May 22, 1933, at Spalding, ID, to James and Maggie Mox Mox Greene.

She received her elementary schooling at the Clearwater Grade School on Coyote Grade near Spalding and grade school at Arlee, MT, and Spalding Grade School. She attended high school at Lapwai, graduating in 1951.

While in high school, Bessie was an outstanding athlete, excelling in varsity basketball and softball all four years. She also participated in all school activities, including four years as a Wildcat cheerleader.

In 1989, she accepted a position with the Nez Perce Tribal Early Head Start Program as a teacher and Niimiipuu language instructor. In compliance with program policy, she attended Lewis-Clark State College and on May 20, 1994, she was awarded an Associate of Applied Science in child development.

On March 25, 1952, she and Wilfred “Scotty” Scott, who was on U.S. Navy leave, were married at Asotin. Scotty attended Naval School in San Diego, where their first daughter, Venita, was born.

Following Scotty’s four months at school and two weeks leave, they would be separated for two and a half years while Scotty served on ship at Pearl Harbor when their first son, Wilfred Jr., was born. Scotty also served at a ship board staff home ported at Sasebo, Japan.

At the end of his enlistment, and with Bessie’s concurrence, Scotty reenlisted and a 20-year career as a Navy wife began. Home would be various sites across the United States.

First would be at Davisville, RI, where sons James and Jeffery and daughter Dani were born. Various ships and commands would follow at Bainbridge, MD, Long Beach, CA, where daughter Lori was born; and El Centro, CA, Millington, TN, and Meridian, MS.

While Scotty served in Vietnam from May 1967 to November 1968, she participated in a tribal home construction program. She and nine other families jointly built their homes from foundation to completed house construction, inside and out.

All while raising her children, and working at the Tribal Head Start program, she continued writing her daily letters to Scotty.

Bessie was most proud of who she was and where she came from. Everyone and everything was very special to her. Her reminders were: “No one is better than you, and you’re no better than anyone else,” and “If you feel you should say you are sorry for something you said or done ... you should not have said or done it in the first place.”

At the urging of some elder ladies she greatly respected, she took the Niimiipuu name of her grandmother who had been known and respected as a woman of Great Medicine. Bessie was proud to be known as hiyúumyanmay, meaning “Grizzly Bear Woman.”

As hiyúumyanmay she gladly and efficiently shared her language and cultural knowledge with everyone. No question went unanswered. As one of the founding contributors and participants in formulation of the Niimiipuu Language Dictionary, she was very proficient in the dictionary’s use.

Bessie was Nez Perce Tribal Employee of the Year in 1990. At the 16th annual Lewis-Clark State College Native American Awareness Week, the Native American Club 2002-03 awarded Bessie the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2007, the state of Idaho also recognized Bessie’s contribution to the practice and preservation of Niimiipuu language and culture, and she was presented the Esto Perpetua Award. Bessie Scott received the Nez Perce Tribal Woman Elder of the Year in 2012.



Although the “get up and go” remained, she would answer two more calls: to assist with the After School Language Program at the Lapwai Elementary School and to teach Niimiipuu language classes at LCSC. She accepted both offers and complied until Covid-19 made its devastating appearance last year. On April 6, 2018, through her untiring efforts with the Niimiipuu Language Program, Bessie was presented the Lewis-Clark State College Presidents Award for Excellence in Diversity and Cross-Cultural Understanding.

For many years, she used that proficiency with the young people in early childhood development. But the daily routine coupled with her advancing in age began to take its toll. With her following words, she decided to step aside and let the younger language practioners take over the teaching duties. “We (Scotty and I) are up in age and it’s getting to the point we can’t hardly get around anymore. I want to take advantage of the time we have to get up and go, so that’s what we’ve been doing.”

For 15 years, Bessie, with Scotty in tow, participated in the Annual Tribal Youth Culture Camp at Wallowa Lake, as resident elders. She was an inspiration during the language and culture sessions to the 120-plus youth in attendance during the two weekly gatherings. Because of Covid-19, she did not attend last year.

On October 5, 1997, Bessie attended the 100th anniversary ceremony honoring those Niimiipuu who participated in the Nez Perce War of 1877. One of her great-grandfathers was killed and his remains are buried at the Bears Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT. Her other great-grandfather and great-grandmother were both wounded while their 2-year-old daughter was killed at the Big Hole Battlefield near Wisdom, MT.

Every year since, she and Scotty have attended every annual ceremony there and many other sites pertinent to the 1877 war.

Bessie was also a life member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Maggie Mox Mox Greene; her grandmothers, Dolly Williams and Mary Wilson; her grandfathers, Johnson Greene and George Mox Mox; her sisters, Rose, Baby, and Geneva Greene; her brothers, Alex Taylor, Johnson, Jesse, Billy, Matthew, and Larry Greene; her son, James Scott; and her namesake and granddaughter, Bessie Blackeagle.

She is survived by her loving husband of 68 years, Wilfred Scott Sr.; daughters Venita Scott, Dani Scott and Lori Enick, all of Lapwai; sons Wilfred Scott Jr., of Waha, and Jeffrey Scott, of Lapwai; sister Darlene Pinkham, of Lenore; granddaughters Fawn Domebo and Kiri George, both of Lapwai, Nicole George and Vashti Scott, both of Lewiston; grandsons Kemo Scott, of Waha, John Oatman, Geoffery Scott, Sam Davis Jr., and Basil George, all of Lapwai. Bessie also leaves 12 great-grandchildren and many, many nieces and nephews.

The family extends their deepest heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all those who responded in Bessie’s and her family’s time of need. Your outpouring of sympathy and concern will never be forgotten.

Bessie - hiyúumyanmay had a deep faith in our Creator and eternal life. She treated all faiths as equal and was comfortable in attending all services.

The staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail is forever grateful to Bessie for all of her assistance.

Bessie Annette Blackeagle

The world lost a beautiful soul: Bessie Annette Blackeagle on October 31, 2020, in Kamiah, ID. Bessie had a unique way of touching people's hearts, whether it was family, friends, or even someone she met only briefly.

May 16, 1992, Bessie Annette Blackeagle was born to Frank Blackeagle and Dani Scott in Spokane, WA. Bessie was known as wetxuuwiis wees-Return from far away.

Her Indian name was given by uncle, Norton Blackeagle. She spent her life throughout Idaho and Montana. During childhood, Bessie took piano lessons and became a proficient pianist. She was active in karate and earned a black belt. She graduated from Lapwai in 2010.

While in high school, Bessie was active in basketball, cheerleading, and the school mascot. In 2009 she placed for drama, traveling to Moscow, ID, to compete in a state competition. Also, she was selected to participate for Miss Idaho Teen, winning the talent show as a designer and seamstress. She was featured in Indian Country Today Magazine, nominated as an Ambassador from the school and traveling to Australia. She held numerous school office positions throughout the years.

After high school, Bessie attend Lewis Clark State College where she completed a minor degree in Nez Perce Language. Bessie was an avid practitioner of Nimiipuutimt.

She was an actor in the LCSC production of Tim'neepe, Heart of the Monster. The Nez Perce National Historical Park Service offered an internship. Her teaching included the Lapwai After School Program, North West Indian College, Lewis Clark College, and Culture Camp. She had many jobs, including Nez Perce Tribe Historical Park, Nez Perce Tribe Language Program, transcriptionist, Early Childhood Development Program, and Stinker Station.

Bessie had a strong belief in her culture which included: Waala'ahsasa, Medicine dance, Root Feast, and the Pow Wow circuit. She loved to sing and dance and hoped to save the earth. Bessie held two crowns: Looking Glass and Ee'pah'tes celebrations.

She was an avid gatherer of traditional medicines, cleansing, and praying in a sweat lodge.

She loved to build and sweat with her aunties on the Blackeagle side. Throughout the years, Bessie participated in numerous 1877 war memorials in Idaho, Montana, and Canada.

She created many memories with her grandparents, learning history and sharing stories while traveling to the memorials. As a member of On Eagle Wings, she traveled to various places throughout the country.

Bessie was survived by her mother Dani Scott If Lapwai; Grandparents, siblings, John Oatman of Lapwai, Andrew and Philip Blackeagle of Kamiah; nieces Robin Scott and Minoka Redstar of Nesplem, WA, Miomi and Sienna Gomez of Pasco, WA, Jon Wheeler of Lapwai; cat "little boy" and dog "sunflower" of Lapwai, and horse "sik'em of Kamiah.

Bessie is preceded in death by her father, Frank Blackeagle; grandparents, Rueben Blackeagle and Veda Jackson-Blackeagle; and Veda Jackson-Blackeagle; uncle, James Scott; aunt Cynthia Blackeagle; cat "Maurice Muppet Blackeagle."

The staff of the NPNHT appreciates the support that Bessie provided to the NPNHT on several projects while she worked at the Big Hole Battlefield as well as other sites along the Trail. In honor of the families request a photo is not included.



Mike Penney

Michael “Mike” Joseph Penney (We-at-mus-ta-ka-kite), 72, of Lapwai, ID, passed away surrounded by his family, Saturday, November 28, 2020, at his home in Lapwai. He was born December 19, 1947, in Lewiston to Priscilla Pinkham and Frank Penney Sr.

On December 3, 1966, Michael married Delores White in Cha-week-ta. They had one daughter, Michelle Rae Penney, born in 1966 in Lewiston.

Michael graduated from Lapwai High School in 1966. In 1967, he and his family moved to Salinas, CA, where he attended Hartnell Junior College. In 1969, he received his Associate of Arts degree in electronics from Hartnell. In 1972, he graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science degree in social work with a minor in science. His junior and senior years, he was on the dean’s list and was the president of the Native American Student Association at U of I. In 1974, he earned his master’s degree in business administration also from U of I.



In 1975, Michael moved back to Lapwai where he worked for the Nez Perce Tribe in numerous positions, including firefighter crew boss ('69-70), economic development planner ('75-80), planning manager ('86-88), administrative manager ('89-92), forestry and limestone manager ('92-97), and executive director ('97-04). He was employee of the year in 1989, received the Eagle award for his work on the establishment of the new BIA office building, honored with the Idaho rural practitioner award for his dedication and commitment toward developing the Nez Perce Tribe as forest products manager, and manager of the year award in 2003. He helped establish economic development planning function on the Nez Perce Reservation and the economic development document (OEDP), which set the economic development strategy for the Nez Perce Tribe.

From 1976 to 1978, he served as a member of Idaho Health Systems Board of Directors and the Nez Perce County planning and zoning commission. Michael was elected as General Council chairman for the Nez Perce Tribe from 1976-84.

Michael was the lead singer of the Waap qah qun Drum, aka Nez Perce Nation Drum. The drum has traveled throughout the United States to numerous pow-wows, ceremonies, and celebrations. They sang at President Clinton’s inaugural parade and traveled to Belgium in 1994 for a cultural demonstration.

Mike had a unique sense of humor, infectious smile, and bigger-than-life personality. He was known throughout Indian Country as an accomplished round bustle dancer and keeper of songs who had a way of bringing heart and life to songs from the past.

His favorite pastimes included his and Dee’s annual trip to Sturgis on their Harley, and playing pool — even winning the league championship. He enjoyed playing football, softball, chess, sudoku, and watching his daughter, grandkids, and great-grandkids participate in sports.

He is survived by his wife, Dee Penney, of 54 years; his daughter, Michelle Penney, of Lapwai; his grandchildren, Alex Michael and Teeiah Arthur, of Lapwai, Valencia Ahtaleen Tapuro, of Lummi, Harley Rae Ellenwood, and Samuel E. Ellenwood Jr., both of Lapwai; great-grandchildren Anton Michael Arthur and Amaya Marie Arthur, of Lapwai, DeAndre Dmitri James, Celestine Irene James, Trene Ella James, and Everon James, of Lummi, and Genesis Eugene Tuane Penney, of Lapwai.

He is also survived by his brothers, Leroy L. Seth, Joel Binks Henry, Frank Penney Jr., and Wayne Penney; his sisters, Sarah Dee Harrison, Jana Henry, Jena Henry, Sylvia Mitchell, Loretta Higheagle, Mildred Penney, Roxanne Harrison Pierre, and Vina Harrison; his uncles, Alfred Pinkham, Alvin Pinkham, and Allen Pinkham. He is survived by numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Priscilla Pinkham; his father, Frank Penney Sr., WWII vet and survivor of the Bataan Death March; aunts Bernadine Greene, Audrey Redheart and Loretta Alexander; his brothers, Edward Henry, Jay W. Henry, Phillip Eugene Penney, and Del T. White.

A traditional dressing service was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, December 3, at Malcolm’s Brower-Wann Funeral Home in Lewiston, followed by a viewing from 2-4 p.m.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the nursing staff and attending physicians at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, hospice staff, his pow-wow family, the Nez Perce Tribe, and all those who knew and loved him.

The staff of the NPNHT appreciates his years of support and dedication to bring the Nez Perce Nation Drum to numerous events along the Trail and his numerous speaking engagements to educate our publics.





Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Winter to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

Also, check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.

Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.



UPCOMING Events: STAY TUNED



March 7-13, 2021—Professional Trail Builders Association Sustainable Trails Conference

March 8-26, 2021 — [Hike the Hill Virtual Workshop](#)—Additional information coming soon

Numerous events have been cancelled or postponed due to the current Public Health Emergency. Please follow us on Twitter @npnht or watch for additional updates on our website. Be well and be safe!!

#Recreate Responsibly

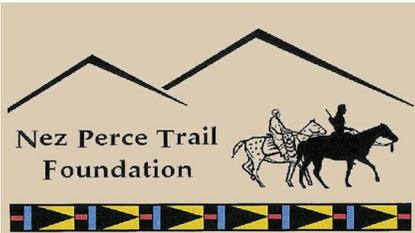
Recreating responsibly is about people and places. Bring a face covering, avoid crowded or closed areas, and build an inclusive outdoors where everyone is welcome. Be part of the #RecreateResponsibly movement.

No matter how you like to get outside, we are all united by the love we share for our parks, trails, and waterways. The need to #RecreateResponsibly will continue even after the pandemic is behind us. We have a shared responsibility to care for one another and these places to ensure they remain for future generations to enjoy.

As state and local guidelines evolve, we can all be a part of making the outdoors a safe place to be. Following the #RecreateResponsibly guidelines will keep everyone safe as we enjoy our parks, waters, trails, and forests. Learn more: <https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/>



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



For the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, the last quarter of 2020 seemed to have passed like the rest of the 2020 calendar year with a couple of exceptions. The most recent exception was the Foundations participation in the Wreaths Across America Day event. This annual event is a celebration and memorial to those who have served in the United States armed forces and those who have served our nation with distinction. This nationwide event took place on December 19, 2020, at cemeteries from coast to coast, and those sponsoring or volunteering to participate in the wreath laying

ceremonies included organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion, and VFW Post. The December 19 national event included the honoring of the Lewis and Clark participants as national and military heroes who opened the vast majority of the west to exploration and eventual inclusion in the United States of America. Surprisingly, the 2020 Wreaths Across America event included the recognition of the Nez Perce, thanks in part by Jim Mallory, Vice Chairman of the Lewis and Clark Trust. Specifically, the focus of the wreath laying ceremony was to recognize and remember the Nez Perce son of William Clark known by the name of *Haláx tuuqit* (Daytime Smoker/Capon Rouge). Daytime Smoker was born in 1806, months after the Corps of Discovery departed the Nez Perce village and headed home after their successful exploration of the American west. Daytime Smoker was 71 years old when he was caught up in the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. Daytime Smoker, along with the other Nez Perce who sought freedom, was eventually captured by the U.S. Army a mere 40 miles from the Canadian border. He survived the war and was taken prisoner along with the rest of the Nez Perce who were eventually incarcerated in the Oklahoma Territory. He passed away near the current community of Tonkawa, OK. Jim Mallory stated that Daytime Smoker is not considered a U. S. Veteran, but he and the other Nez Perce deserve respect as human beings. We can all be reminded that the Nez Perce were instrumental in the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition as well as serving the U.S. Army in support of their effort to suppress uprisings by Northwest Indians. The exact resting place of Daytime Smoker and the many Nez Perce men women and well over 100 children who passed away in Tonkawa is unknown. The Nez Perce Tonkawa memorial is a result of one man and his deep devotion, compassion, and memory of the Nez Perce people and what they endured. In July of 1992 Henry Allen Sr., Chief of the Tonkawa Tribe, established the Nez Perce memorial as a way to remember and honor the Nez Perce people. Nez Perce Trail Foundation board member, Matt Norwak, attended the wreath laying ceremony. Matt was asked to serve as the ceremonies first speaker and did so, representing both the Nez Perce Trail Foundation and the Lewis and Clark Trail Trust. Wreaths that were laid at the memorial were provided by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Ponca City Chapter. VFW 1202 Post Commander Gary Miles of Ponca City was instrumental in organizing the wreath laying ceremony. Ponca Tribal shaman Michael Paul Littlevoice conducted the spiritual offering. Other tribes were represented. Dignitaries in attendance included the NSDAR Vice President General-Honorary Oklahoma State Regent Sue Allen, Former Tonkawa Tribal Chief Don Patterson, Cecelia Schieber Ponca City Chapter Regent, VFW Post Senior Vice. Dan Hoac, and Chaplin Melvin Osburn. A tremendous amount of gratitude is extended to Jim Mallory and the Lewis and Clark Trust for remembering and including the Nez Perce people and Daytime Smoker (Halahtookit) in the annual Wreaths Across America Day ceremony. A special thanks is also extended to the Tonkawa Tribe for the meticulous grooming and care of the Nez Perce Memorial Grounds that they have provided since 1970.



Photo Courtesy of the NPTF

L-R: Kate Bozek Treasurer of the Ponca City Veterans Day Parade committee, Dan Hoach Senior Vice Commander of the Ponca City VFW, Sue Allen Vice President General of Daughters of the American Revolution, Matt Norwak, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, Melvin Osburn Chaplain of the VFW Post, Cecelia Schieber Regent of Ponca City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Gary Miles Chairman of Ponca City Veterans Day Parade committee



The Nez Perce Trail Foundation is sad to report that Jim Evans, long time Executive Director of the Foundation, passed away at his home on November 16, 2020. Foundation Board Member Charlie Moses of the Nez Perce Tribe offered the following tribute. “Jim was passionate about the Appaloosa horse and the Nez Perce Trail that took the Wallowa Nez Perce and other non-treaty Nez Perce and Palouse from their homeland over 1300 miles of high mountains, across rivers and open prairies to the final battlefield near the Bear Paw mountains, Montana. Jim knew the trail was sacred to the Nez Perce and Palouse and he worked tirelessly to preserve the physical trail and share with others the sad story of the Nez Perce and Palouse people driven from the ancestral homeland. The Foundation chose Jim to be executive director in part, because he had participated with the Appaloosa Horse Club and their annual Chief Joseph trail ride. (ultimately over 39 years participation in the Trail). He knew the trail well and worked tirelessly to pass on the history and the events along the trail that did not end at the Bear Paw but continued for the Nez Perce captives held in bondage until they were allowed to return to their homelands in the northwest. Speaking for past directors and officers we will miss Jim and thank him for the contribution he made to the preservation, documentation, and interpretation of the Nez Perce Trail for all people.” (Photo left, L-R Jim Zimmerman and Jim Evans at the Kentucky Mid-State Appaloosa banquet, 1977).

Jim Zimmerman, President, [NPTF](#)





News From the National Park Service: Nez Perce National Historical Park

While the visitor center may be closed, there is still plenty to do at Nez Perce National Historical Park. Whether you're a local or you're at home miles away, there's still plenty of the Park that can be explored and learned. We asked some of our Park rangers what their favorite Park activities are.

Supervisory Park Ranger Brett Spaulding favors the trail at White Bird Battlefield (photos with this story). The three-mile trail loops across the site of the first battle of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877. "With amazing scenic views and historic importance, the trail at White Bird Battlefield is a great place for hikers and history buffs alike," Spaulding says. Learn more about the battlefield's history and how to visit at <https://www.nps.gov/nepe/learn/historyculture/places.htm>



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

While Park Ranger Vivian Henry likes to visit and rove all the Park's sites, Weis Rockshelter is her favorite. One of the oldest sites in the Park, the rock shelter first became home to the ancestors of the Nez Perce over 8,000 years ago. "I like to sit and think about all those in the past that were there before me," Henry says.

Our Park staff also share their favorite topics and interests on the Park's Facebook page. Visit the page to learn something new, ask a question, or plan a future trip. <https://www.nps.gov/nepe/index.htm>

The National Park Service encourages you to recreate responsibly, follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of Covid-19, and follow Leave No Trace principles when you visit. Know before you go, visit [NPS.gov/nepe](https://www.nps.gov/nepe) for current Park conditions and availability of restrooms and other facilities. We ask

the public to be our partner in adopting social distancing practices and to wear a face covering.

Kelly Kincaid. Administrative Assistant, Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

2020 has been a year many of us will never forget and one that most of us are happy to see in the rearview mirror. As we move into 2021, winter has officially set in and as of November 7, 2020, the visitor center at Big Hole National Battlefield is closed. The visitor center is scheduled to reopen by Memorial Day weekend following the latest CDC guidance. See our website, www.nps.gov/biho for a confirmed date as we get closer. The rest of the Park remains open sunrise to sunset. The road to the lower parking lot and trailheads is closed and access to the lower lot and trails is by walking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing only. Be prepared to be self-sufficient with first aid, water, food, additional clothing etc., as no amenities are provided.

While spring and summer may seem a long way off, we are busy preparing for the upcoming season. Unfortunately, our annual Coyote Camp has been cancelled, but staff are currently working on alternative ways to address the needs of teachers and schools that usually come to Coyote Camp.

The same follows through for the Summer Speaker Series, which usually runs on the weekends throughout the summer, but was cancelled last year due to Covid-19. Staff are currently working on creative ways to still provide the visitor with these amazing opportunities to connect with our cultural demonstrators and yet keep everyone safe. To help provide the best experience possible while protecting the site, we hope to bring on both interpretive and maintenance summer seasonal(s). We are in the process of hiring a uniformed ranger and a Student Conservation Association intern.

In addition to our website you can also follow us on our Facebook site at www.facebook.com/BigHoleNationalBattlefield, Twitter at www.twitter.com/BigHoleNPS and Instagram at www.instagram.com/bigholenps. New to all our social media sites this winter are nímí·pu· (Nez Perce) language posts. In maintenance, Park staff continue snow removal operations, and monitoring of the Park's facilities: water system, wastewater system, Boiler/HVAC, and housing.



We are in the process of planning summer construction projects, upgrades to water and wastewater systems, roof replacement, and ongoing fire suppression system upgrades.

Hiring of Permanent and seasonal positions are in progress and we hope to bring folks on as soon as possible. No matter what the season is, Big Hole National Battlefield has something to touch everyone. #Plotyourpath this month so it winds its way to our park and experience what it has to offer.

Photo left : Historic twin trees (in center of photo) with frosty fringe of trees in background. NPS/Big Hole

Leslie Lula, Park Guide and Jimmer Stevenson, Maintenance Lead Big Hole National Battlefield



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service



News From the Forest Service Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Wallowa-Whitman National Forest 2020 Accomplishments

This year the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) received \$10,000 for trail and site maintenance from Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail administration.

With these funds the Forest accomplished light trail maintenance on:

- The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (#1727)
- Corral Creek (#1698)
- Eureka Creek (#1732)
- Tulley Creek (#1724)

Corral Creek Trail #1698 (Photo left)

Maintenance priorities for this year included removal of all logs, debris, and rocks from the trail tread. Crews also provided cairn maintenance, including repair and replacement of trail markers. Nee-Me-Poo trail signs were checked for condition and found to be in good shape. 4.4 miles of trail were maintained. Structures maintained: four.

Eureka Creek Trail #1732 (Photo right)

Logout was accomplished and major trail obstructions were mitigated along the 5.6 miles of this trail. Route markers were also maintained. Structures maintained: five.

Tully Creek Trail #1724

Drainage structures were cleaned, and route markers maintained on the 4 miles of trail. Structures

maintained: five.

Sweyn Wall, Recreation, Trails, Wilderness & Special Uses
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa Mountains Office



U.S. Forest Service photo



U.S. Forest Service photo





News From the Forest Service Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest & Nez Perce Tribe Nee-Me-Poo Trail Maintenance Report

The Nez Perce (Niimiipuu) Tribe's aboriginal territory encompasses nearly all of what is now north central Idaho and extensive portions of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The Nez Perce Tribe signed treaties in 1855 and 1863 with the U.S. government. The Treaty of 1855 has never been altered and reserves certain resources and rights for Niimiipuu. The rights to hunt, gather, and graze livestock on all "open and unclaimed lands" (public land) is an entitlement Niimiipuu retain. In addition to these rights, the availability and access to fish in all "usual and accustomed places" is vital to Niimiipuu and was retained in the treaty. These resources and agreements are held in reliance by the federal government on behalf of the Nez Perce people. This is commonly referred to as the "trust responsibility" of federal land managers.

Lolo Trail:

Located in Idaho within the 1855 Nez Perce treaty territory, the Lolo Trail is 97 miles in length extending from Musselshell Meadows to U.S. Forest Service managed lands in Montana. The trail is considered a national historic landmark created to highlight the Nez Perce (Niimiipuu or Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Niimiipuu trail stretches from Wallowa Lake, OR, to Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT. For our Niimiipuu ancestors this trail was one of the first "highways" opening trade amongst Montana tribes and providing access to hunt buffalo. This trail also holds significant value to the Tribe, in tribute of the Niimiipuu eluding the U.S. Army in 1877, when the tribe was forced to flee their home land. The historic trail has been altered by road construction, used as a supply route for mining activity, and unauthorized off-highway vehicle use.

Project Mission:

The Nez Perce Tribe is compelled and committed to protecting, preserving, and restoring those treaty resources and treaty reserved rights throughout their territory. The Lolo Watershed is a critical part of this territory and mission. The vision of the Watershed Division is as follows.

Our vision is one in which rivers and streams, the lifeblood in the veins of Nez Perce Country, and the ecosystems they support are healthy and valued. We envision a world in which the blood of life is treated with the utmost respect by all and land management activities to ensure a sustainable balance with healthy ecosystems. Only then will salmon, and all life, once again thrive and the circle of life continue for all time.

The Tribe provides job training and education programs that provide tribal members with outdoor skills, job ethics, and community and independent living skills. This opportunity is an avenue for positive self-development, addressing pertinent life issues, and for contributing to their community. Programs managed by the tribe will introduce tribal members to the management of natural and cultural resources on National Forest System lands.

Project Requirements:

The Nez Perce Tribe and USDA Forest Service work agreement consists of the Nez Perce Tribe clearing out, logging out, loose rock removal, drainage maintenance, brush cutting, slide maintenance, and tread repair on the Lolo Trail. Field crews follow minimum impact camping guidelines provided by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Clearing:

Trail clearing consists of removing downed trees greater than 12 inches diameter to deter wheeled vehicles from using the trail. Trees left across the trail are typically oriented approximately 90 degrees and can be easily navigated by foot or by horse. Larger trees blocking the trail are cut to manageable sized pieces and rolled out of sight from the trail. Any branches, bark, chips, and other light clearing debris are scattered and concealed. Chainsaw markings are naturalized by dressing the cut face with axe marks or the saw tip. *Continued on page 14*



Photo Courtesy of the Nez Perce Tribe



Log out:

All logs that extend across or into trail clearing limits which can't be stepped over safely are cut and removed. Clearing limits parameters are 1 foot above the top of the cut slope of all ditches, catch basins, and trail structures, whichever is greater. Trees over 3 inches in diameter and leaning into the clearing limits and 10 feet above the trail bed are cleared out.

Loose Rock:

Rocks larger than 2 inches in diameter are removed from the trail bed. All loose rock in drainage dips or ditches with potential to impede water flow are removed. When the trail bed is predominantly rock with sparse soil, the rock greater than 3 inches is selected. Any holes which remain from absent rock are filled with suitable fill material.

Drainage Maintenance:

Drainage structures such as: culverts, water bars, drainage dips, ditches, stream fords, gully crossing, puncheons, and bridges are cleaned. Drainage maintenance includes removal of vegetation and debris from the constructed surface area of drainage structures.

Brush:

This work consists of removing brush and trees less than 6 inches in diameter, and shrubs within the clearing limits. All brush and small woody plants are cut flush with the ground when possible (Photo above).

Slide Maintenance and Tread Repair:

All sections of the trail damaged by erosion are maintained by removal and disposal of land slide material. Re-establishment of the trail where brush or downed trees has diverted traffic from the trail is also included. At all times trail slide material is conserved and used as tread surfacing.

Results:

Trail maintenance completed in 2020 took place over four weeks. Sections 1 and 2 as well as 5 through 7 each took 3.5 days to complete for a total of 7 days with average difficulty (Figure 2). Section 5 was the hardest to complete; the high maintenance difficulty was due to an above average number of large trees across the trail. All other sections had an average maintenance difficulty. The bulk of the maintenance for all sections consisted of clearing out downed logs and digging out wooden water bar.

Covid-19:

Maintenance activities in 2020 were especially difficult due to complications associated with Covid-19. The field season started with crews driving separate vehicles and driving back and forth to the trail each day. Thanks to funds provided by the Nez Perce Tribe, crews were able to purchase additional tents and camping equipment to allow for separate socially distanced sleeping areas. Crews wore masks while driving back and forth to the trail and followed US Forest Service guidelines for distancing while working on the trail.

Future Actions:

The National Appaloosa Horse Club will be riding this section of the Nee-Me-Poo trail in 2021, as part of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride. During this annual event, riders traverse one of thirteen 100 mile section between Wallowa Lake, OR, and Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook MT. The number of riders range between 150 and 200, long term maintenance activities should be considered before and after.

Future plans are to continue weed treatment practices in hopes of reducing patch size and distribution along the trail corridor as well as keep invasion at a minimum to surrounding forest environments. For trail maintenance the highest priority for next season is to continue replacing water bars where needed. Any water bars that are deteriorating and still have rebar will be replaced. All un-needed rebar will be pulled, packed to the trailhead and later recycled.

The Niimípuu have used the Lolo Nee-Me-Poo trail since time immemorial and are inextricably linked to the trail. As co-managers of the trail, the Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division is compelled and dedicated to protecting and restoring the trail and preserving historic values.

Portions of a larger report prepared by: Justin Peterson and Abe Yearout, Nez Perce Tribe



Photo Courtesy of the Nez Perce Tribe





News From the Forest Service Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

Lolo Pass Visitor Center continues to provide visitor services and sales this winter, utilizing a form of window service to minimize Covid-19 exposure and keep both employees and visitors safe. “Window service”

at Lolo Pass included sharing information about the area’s history and recreational opportunities, as well as offering an abbreviated selection of souvenirs and books for sale using a creative “store in a box” display (Photos right).

As a state rest area for Idaho and Montana, visitors also had 24-hour access to clean and safe restroom facilities at Lolo Pass.

In response to Covid-19 restrictions that cancelled in-person presentations this year, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and staff at Lolo Pass sought to develop alternative educational outlets to share information about native culture and historical events that contribute to the unique character of public lands in the Lolo Pass area.

For National Public Lands Day in September, staff at Lolo Pass contributed to the creation of a digital broadcast that included material on the Lolo Motorway and Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The presentation combined pre-recorded materials with newly recorded interviews, and intermingled short video segments on Leave No Trace etiquette for backcountry camping, book reviews for three books about local history: The Lochsa Story, Clearwater Country, and The Bloody Deed, and provided information on a new electronic tour site program that the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are piloting. This event opened a creative door for educational outreach that Lolo Pass hadn’t used much before and was so successful that our employees are looking at additional opportunities to develop content that can be shared across multiple media platforms in the future!

A second, successful effort, the completion of a short film entitled "Creative Hearts and Minds of the Nez Perce," premiered on the Discover Your Northwest-Lolo Pass Visitor Center YouTube channel, on the afternoon of December 14, 2020. This project originated as an alternative way to continue the Artist in Residence program that Lolo Pass has hosted over the last several summers. The project grew out of the Forest’s partnership with Discover Your Northwest, a supplemental grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, and innovation and enthusiasm contributed by local Nez Perce Youth from Kamiah, ID. Filmed by Kamiah high school student Brandon McHone, who is a budding storyteller in his own right, the program includes short interviews with Niimiipuu historian/storyteller Nakia Williams; storyteller, dancer, and founder of Nez Perce Tourism LLC, Stacia Morfin; artist/historian Roger Amerman; and beading artist Mikailah Thompson. The film captures the beauty of nature and the passion that these artists have for sharing Niimiipuu traditions through their art and storytelling. To view this special presentation you can go to: or log onto the [YouTube site](#) and search for “Lolo Pass Visitors Center Discover Your Northwest.”

Lolo Pass has expanded the window service idea to provide a second window during the weekends this winter. Although the Visitor Center and Warming hut will remain closed, visitors are still invited to come up to Lolo Pass and soak in the fresh air and play in an abundance of snow, as snowshoeing, skiing, and snowmobile opportunities abound.

Gabriel Hobson, Acting Manager
Lolo Pass Visitor Center
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests



U.S. Forest Service photos



New Faces Along the Trail:

Brenda Yankoviak New Forest Service National Program Lead for Trails

Brenda Yankoviak was recently selected as the new (and permanent) National Program Lead for Trails for the USDA Forest Service.

Yankoviak has 20 years of experience working for the Forest Service in recreation and trails program management. She grew up in Virginia training horses and teaching riding lessons. On a whim, she took a job in Minnesota as a seasonal wilderness ranger in 1999 and became hooked on working outdoors and “caring for the land and serving people.” After graduating college, she moved progressively west with recreation and trails positions at the district and forest levels in Montana, Idaho, and Washington.

Since 2015, she has served as the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) Administrator based out of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Golden, CO. In this position she worked closely with district, forest, and regional office staff across Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service trail administrator colleagues across the nation. She has been instrumental in developing documents that support consistent management direction across the federal agencies that manage portions of the CDT and helped get the Federal Interagency Trail Administrators Roundtable off the

ground by serving as the group’s first coordinator.

Since June of this year, Brenda has served as Acting National Trail Program Lead for the US Forest Service Washington Office. She looks forward to serving in this role permanently, as she has become invested in the people and the work. She has a passion for trails, a dedication to public service and serving the field, and strives to promote transparency and open communication. She looks forward to lots of field trips to connect with staff and partners on the ground, and to working with Agency staff, federal, and NGO partners, tribes, and others to find creative solutions to challenges and to create new opportunities to increase our collective capacity to manage and maintain a national system of trails that serves our diverse publics.

Yankoviak holds a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from James Madison University and a master’s degree from the University of Montana in recreation resource management. She loves playing guitar, especially with friends. She is also an avid outdoors person who enjoys most every form of recreation, especially when joined in activities by her husband and two daughters.

Becky Shufelt New Bitterroot National Forest Program Manager

Starting at the beginning of April in 2020, Becky Shufelt assumed the position as the new Recreation, Wilderness, and Trails Program Manager for the Bitterroot National Forest, filling the vacancy left by Deb Gale who retired in 2019. She has 20 years of experience with the Forest Service in the recreation management field and recently moved from the Eldorado National Forest, located in Northern California, where she served as the District Recreation Officer on the Pacific Ranger District.

In the last several years, she has also enjoyed serving the public as a Public Information Officer on wildfire incidents. Early in her career she started as a trail crew member while finishing her bachelor’s degree in Natural Resource Recreation Management.

After graduating from Humboldt State University, shortly thereafter, she worked her way into the position of wilderness ranger followed by various positions in wilderness management, special uses, and recreation and was able to earn her Master’s Degree in Natural Resources while working full time as a Recreation Technician. As a trails and wilderness person at heart, she is excited to be on the Bitterroot National Forest and honored to be able to contribute to the management of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.



New Faces Along the Trail:

Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Announces New Program Manager

Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail announces Justin Radford has been selected as the Trail's new Program Manager. Justin will become the Trail's first permanent full-time staff member under the direction and supervision of Superintendent Dan Foster, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. He will be duty stationed in Coulee Dam, WA, and also joined the Management Team of Lake Roosevelt NRA in January 2021.

"Justin brings a wealth of experience in planning and developing visitor services to Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail," said Superintendent Dan Foster. "His depth of experience, along with a dedication to providing quality visitor opportunities, make him a great fit for this position."

"Traveling the region is an experience of geologic power and grace. It is an honor to be selected to help ensure all our visitors have a chance to connect with the special places along Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail," said Justin. "I am looking forward to working with our partners to help every visitor be as excited about the Trail as I am."

Justin follows in the footsteps of many who have work tirelessly to bring [Ice Age Flood National Geologic](#) Trail into existence. He has more than 23 years of previous public service, most recently as the Executive Officer for Overseas Operations at the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Prior to his work with ABMC Justin spent 17 years with the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center for Media Development as a project manager, supervisor, and program coordinator for the development of visitor centers and interpretive media across the United States. While with the National Park Service (NPS) Justin helped to create several new National Park sites including Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail and Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

Justin has a BA in Philosophy from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his expertise in visitor experience development, project management, and stakeholder coordination make him uniquely suited to the future needs of Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Dreaming of Future Summer Travels Along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Historic Trail



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Fall Along the NPNHT Auto Tour Routes

How to Contact Us:

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail
Administration

12740 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-8234

sandra.broncheau-mcfarland@usda.gov

Nez Perce National Historic Trail
Public Affairs

Building 26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 329-3540

roger.peterson@usda.gov

General e-mail: npnht@fs.fed.us

CP Revision e-mail: npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/npnht>



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Heart Mountain near Cody, WY
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



Yellowstone National Park
National Park Service photo by Neal Herber



Lolo Pass Visitor Center
U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



U.S. Forest Service photo, Roger M. Peterson



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