

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

PROGRESS REPORT

Administrator's Corner

As we wrap up the 2nd year of the global pandemic, I send you my ongoing gratitude and fondest hopes that you and yours are well and healthy. As I wrote this, I know our nation continues to deal with the effects of this incredibly challenging year. One may ask, how do we pursue in tough times? History has shown that it can be a powerful tool to empower a just and compassionate future. As we look back on 2021, I'm filled with appreciation for every one of you who joined us in the pursuit of sharing the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and its rich history with courage, collaboration, and accountability. Look at how one of our partners did this on page 13.

I have learned and gained a worthy benefit embracing that history includes everyone, as everyone has a history; everyone is included and history connects us all.

In keeping this close to my heart, I know you understand the importance of stories. You know that they cultivate our wisdom, decrease our fear of the other, and inspire us in every possible way. Every single person has a story, and every one of our stories has the potential to change somebody's outlook on life.

This last year was complicated for many of us. We're seeing ourselves in different ways, communicating in different ways, and our stories have evolved. Now, more than ever, they need to be told. Division, otherness, and fear are ripping our social fabric into jagged pieces. To restitch and repair our nation we must dig deep into our wells of understanding and compassion, and reconnect through the kinds of stories produced only by sharing the most meaningful and authentic parts of ourselves with each other.

Many of our volunteers and partners spent their time and resources during the pandemic developing new exhibits, while some enhanced and maintained their existing displays. Find out more on our Challenge Cost Share Project in the article with the Alvin Josephy Center for Arts and History on page 13.

In 2022, I am feeling a deepening sense of connection and appreciation for the NPNHT community and a heightened awareness of the urgency to strengthen our efforts for the work ahead. We are a small team, and this is a heavy lift. But with your help, we can absolutely do it.

As we welcome the new year, we will remember what the world has been through. We wish you and your family a joyful and inspiring new year. Thank you for your support, and for what we have achieved together.

We promise to continue sharing the same exciting updates with you though. You'll hear about our latest projects and events, learn new things about the NPNHT.

For every obstacle, there is a solution. Persistence is the key. The greatest mistake is giving up. - Dwight D. Eisenhower

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland



Sylvia Allen and Sandra Broncheau-McFarland
Photo: Joni Packard

New Faces Along the Trail

David Hammer is the new Recreation Program Manager for the Bitterroot National Forest! His duty station will be in Hamilton and his effective date is March 27th. He will be working remotely through April before relocating to the Bitterroot Valley.

David has been the Recreation Specialist for the Pacific Ranger District on the Olympic NF since 2016, due to restructuring, he has been serving as the Forest Recreation Program Manager since October, 2021. He completed details as Deputy District Ranger for the Eagle Cap/Wallowa Valley Ranger Districts and Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the Wallowa-Whitman NF, and Public Services Staff Officer for the Olympic NF. David has 11 years of experience in recreation management. Previous positions include Special Use Permit Administrator for the Flaming Gorge District on the Ashley NF, Environmental Planner for Stantec Consulting, Watershed Restoration Specialist for the Nez Perce Tribe, and Trail Crew Foreman and Wilderness Ranger with the Forest Service in R4. David will be moving here with his wife (Samantha), daughter Macall (5), and son Barrett (1). David enjoys chasing his kids, back packing, camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting. He is looking forward to meeting the team and working to support the amazing work happening on the Bitterroot National Forest.



Lisa Timchak is the new Forest Supervisor on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and she also started at the end of January. Lisa grew up in Virginia and Salisbury, England. When she returned to the states, she attended college and received a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and a Master's Degree in Wildlife Management. Her first government job was as a clerk typist working at the Pentagon. She secured a



graduate co-op position with the Forest Service in 1988, and when she completed her M.S. at Utah State University, she was converted to a Wildlife Biologist position on the Los Padres National Forest. When Lisa arrived in Montana in early 2000, she was the District Ranger for Plains/Thompson Falls on the Lolo National Forest then served as the District Ranger for Tally Lake on the Flathead National Forest in Northwest Montana. Lisa's proudest achievements are raising her three children who are 27, 24, and 22 years old; coaching youth soccer; and managing the incredible resources each forest has to offer. She enjoys hiking, travelling abroad, and wildlife viewing with her husband but only when she is able to pry a fly rod out of his hands.

Emily Platt Brownscombe is the new Forest Supervisor on the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest and she starts at the end of March. Emily currently serves as Special Project Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service. She recently led a team that completed forest plan amendments (to the "Eastside Screens") for six forest plans in Eastern Oregon to make it easier to manage for more fire resistant forests. Prior to her current position, Emily served as District Ranger for the Mt. Adams Ranger District where she and her team worked with partners to create a landscape more resistant to disturbances like wildfire and managed a range of other issues from huckleberry harvest to dramatic increases in recreation use. The District also developed an effective partnership with Washington State that supported projects in the district's most fire-prone forests. She was an acting Forest Supervisor for the Hiawatha NF in northern Michigan in 2021. Emily earned her PhD in forest resources at Oregon State University's College of Forestry where she studied Forest Service governance and landscape management for wildfire resilience. Emily is an avid trail runner, loves reading, and enjoys anything that gets her twin toddlers outside – puddles, bikes, skiing, camping.

Robyn Smith has been selected as the new District Ranger for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' Red River Ranger District headquartered in Elk City.

Smith is rejoining the Forest Service after serving as the District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Mariposa, Calif. Field Office since 2011. In this position, she helped farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners implement projects to enhance and conserve Mariposa County's valuable natural resources. A major focus of this work was supporting partnership efforts to reduce hazardous wildfire fuels and restore forest health throughout the Sierra Nevada.

Earlier in her career, Smith worked as the NRCS Coordinator for the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council, where she worked with a variety of partners to develop projects to enhance the rural economy

and conserve natural resources. Despite her recent NRCS work, Smith considers herself to have “grown up” in the Forest Service, enjoying seasonal experiences in fuels reduction, silviculture, timber, and permit administration. She worked on the Stanislaus and Shasta-Trinity National Forests in California and the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon prior to settling in California’s Sierra National Forest, where she was a Forester and Resource Project Coordinator for over 15 years.



Smith, a Humboldt State University alumna, loves living in rural mountain communities and enjoys photography, skiing, fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting with her family. She and her husband are excited to become a part of the community in Elk City.

“I am very excited to be joining the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests team and to get started working hand-in-hand with staff and partners to care for our precious natural resources and support our communities for future generations,” said Smith.

“I am really looking forward to Robyn’s extensive experience bringing diverse interests together to solve problems,” said Cheryl Probert, Forest Supervisor. “Her cross-boundary work during her time with the NRCS will be instrumental in capitalizing on the opportunities ahead of us here at the Forest Service.”

Katie Knotek has been selected as the Lolo National Forest Recreation Program Manager. She is currently

the District Recreation Staff for the Missoula District on the Lolo NF. She completed a temporary promotion on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Region 6 as the Forest Recreation Program Manager during the winter of 2020/2021.



Katie has 19 years of experience working with the Forest Service in both research and management, all specifically related to recreation, trails and wilderness. She’s held three recreation management positions and completed three temporary promotions in Region 1 and before that served as a Social Science Analyst for the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. She has participated in Regional and National teams

including serving as the Region 1 representative on the Chief’s Wilderness Advisory Group and as a Public Information Officer on a Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team. Katie is a rabid GRIZ fan having competed as a Cross-Country and Track athlete at the University of Montana. She and her husband live in Missoula which has been their home for over 20 years. She’s excited to gain new skills and grow in her career on the Lolo NF!

Marcus Owens is the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forest’s new landscape architect! Marcus brings a great mix of education and experience to the Forest. Experiences include co-founding and managing a landscape architecture design studio where he participated in planning, design, and construction administration as well as overseeing the business operations. In this role and others he’s developed feasibility studies, performed master planning, conducted collaboration on behalf of municipal government with assorted stakeholders, written grants, developed plans and construction documents, and administered construction projects. He’s studied and analyzed landscapes at the urban-wild interface from an urban perspective but is motivated to join the Forest to analyze landscapes from the wildland and ecological perspective. In addition to his firm Marcus had recently served as a lecturer at UC Berkeley where he also obtained a PhD in Landscape Architecture.

We are excited to have Marcus with us virtually and look forward to the day sometime soon when we’ll be able to enjoy his company and that of his family, Christina, and daughter Rose in person. Marcus reports that he is “looking forward to working with everyone, albeit remotely for the time being, and learning more about the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest, and broader operations in the Northern Region”.

Neil Miner is the new Landscape Architect for the Lolo, Bitterroot, and Flathead National Forests! His duty station will be in Missoula.

Neil has practiced landscape architecture for about 17 years in both the private and public sector across the Intermountain West. Neil earned his Bachelors of Landscape Architecture degree from Utah State University. He worked 6 years in Boulder, Colorado for a small landscape architecture firm and an additional 2 years as a consultant, with a focus on public parks, trails, and public spaces. He has most recently worked for the City of Missoula’s Parks and Recreation Department as the Parks and Trails Design/Development Manager for 8 years, where most notably, he was the project



manager for the design and construction of Fort Missoula Regional Park. He also worked on the South Reserve Pedestrian Bridge, final trail sections of the Bitterroot Trail, Montana Rail Link Park, as well as numerous master plans, development reviews, and technical advisory teams.

Neil lives in Missoula with his wife Rebecca and two sons, Everett (5) and Oliver (3). He enjoys spending his time mountain biking, chasing his kids, and trying to trail run and hunt (not at the same time). Neil is excited to continue his career in landscape architecture with the Forest Service and work across the forests that he and his family spend so much of their time in.

Jazmin Castillo working as a Resource Assistant (RA) in the Washington Office National Trail Program, Jazmin has the opportunity to work with the National Trail Board, analyze data to create an infographic from a recent survey of field staff working in trails, and develop a communication strategy for the National Trail Program. Although her position is virtual, it has allowed the flexibility to network with staff around the country and collaborate with partners like Back Country Horsemen of America.



Matt Able has joined the WO Trails team as Infra Trails Modernization Product Owner, which means he'll be heading up the NRM Infra Trails, Trail Bridges and ATM modernization/full redesign effort for the agency. Matt started this 1-year NTE position (option to extend up to 4 years) on Monday. Many of you know Matt as he recently completed a 120-day detail as Acting Assistant National Trail Program Manager and is the current Trails Advisory Group Chair. He has worked as Trails and Dispersed Recreation Program Manager on the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky since 2015.



As Product Owner, Matt is the primary point of contact for the Infra Trails modernization effort and liaison between WO Trails & WO Travel Management programs and CIO NRM developers. This position requires extensive amounts of coordination, communication, piloting of applications, and approval of each step of the new database development process. There are many discussions with SMEs and convening

of working groups to develop and test out ideas in Matt's future! Matt brings the unique combination of strong technical trail skills, leadership and communication skills, and in-depth knowledge of the current trails database as well as the latest technology in data collection and sharing, making him an excellent fit to fill this critically important role.

Thank you, Matt, for stepping up for this potentially once-in-a-career opportunity to develop a new trails database for the agency! This is a huge undertaking that, once complete, will transform our way of doing business. A more simple, streamlined, intuitive, and GIS-enabled database will increase efficiency and workforce capacity, and result in more complete and accurate trail data to better inform management, report to Congress, respond to data inquiries, share with partners and the public, and demonstrate accountability with taxpayer dollars, among other things!

Charles "Chuck" Sams III Sworn in as First Native American Director of the National Park Service

[Read article](#) from Indian Country Today.



Chuck Sams with Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, DOI photo.

Faces Remembered

Alvin M. Josephy Jr., called an "iconic figure in American Indian history," distinguished award-winning journalist, World War II Marine Corps combat correspondent, magazine and book editor, pre-eminent historian on the American West and American Indians on whose behalf he was a tireless advocate (culminating with his role as the founding chairman for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian), died Oct. 16 at his home in Greenwich, Conn. He was 90.

"Alvin was a man of integrity, wisdom and a friend to our Native American family. He was kind to take the time to review my master's Thesis and was always supportive. In my first presentation at a National Convention speaking to a large crowd I was very nervous. He sat in the front row and encouraged me to remember that as a Nimiipuu woman I had important words to share, and it was the audience responsibility to listen and hear the words from my culture and heart. As long as I knew him, he had nothing but encouraging words to continue speaking and writing. We are indebted to you for all you gave the people. I'm honored each time I visit the Alvin Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, OR." —*Sandra Broncheau-McFarland*

[Read more](#) about Alvin Josephy.

Maureen Jane Kirchoff, aged 69 years, passed away on January 1, 2022, from complications of early onset dementia.

"I will treasure the art that Maureen made for me. She was a creative and incredible lady and a gifted artist. I appreciated that she was a champion for the NPNHT and paid our program and Trail a great deal of attention providing invaluable input and resources to make us successful. She was a true leader to me, and I will never forget the positive, good example she set for me and the help she delivered unselfishly. She had an incredible way of making sure I was heard at meetings always brining me into the conversations with professionalism and grace. May she rest in peace. " - *Sandra Broncheau-McFarland*



Read Maureen's obituary in the [Missoulian](#).

Dr. Haruo Aoki — *Takasayohote* (Lightening)

Dr. Aoki was known to the Nez Perce as *Takasayohote* (Lightning). He was much more than a scholar, linguist, author, and professor emeritus UC Berkeley. He spent most of his adult life helping to save the Nez Perce language from extinction. He lived with the people and participated in their culture to the fullest. His writings include his dissertation, *Nez Perce Oral Narratives*, numerous papers and the *Nez Perce Dictionary*.

We are grateful for the work that "Lightning" has done on our behalf. He passed at the age of 91 years. His work continues today with the Nez Perce Language Program. For more information see the article on Page 10. Qe'ciyew'yew (thank you), Dr. Aoki, for your dedication and concern.



News from Travelers' Rest State Park / Travelers's Rest Connection & Fort Owen State Park

Maci McPherson, Park Manager

Travelers' Rest and Fort Owen State Park welcomed two new AmeriCorps members, Sabrina and Tano, this January! They will serve at both parks through November 2022. Both members are planning special events, tours, and educational field trips. Visit www.travelersrest.org/events for upcoming events and programming!

Travelers' Rest has continued our annual tradition of Winter Storytelling, which is inspired by and pays tribute to the Selis (Bitterroot Salish) who tell Coyote stories in the winter months. Saturday Storytelling has been a great success over Zoom this past year! From speakers discussing history to



Photo: Maci MacPherson

fishing to Salish storytelling, each speaker has been unique and engaging. If you'd like to register for upcoming Saturday Storytelling, visit www.travelersrest.org! To re-watch recorded Storytelling programs, visit the Missoula Community Action Television website, www.mcat.org.

Fort Owen State Park will re-open to the public on March 1. Park hours are 9 am - 6 pm daily. Following a busy year of improvements in 2021, Fort Owen will continue with work to fulfill a grant received in 2020 by the Montana State Parks

Foundation. The Foundation received a \$507,000 grant for public access (including a new parking lot), an updated interpretive plan, and historic preservation work on the East Barracks building. In 2022, staff and community members will provide input into what they'd like to learn about, experience, and see at Fort Owen through the interpretive plan process. Historic preservation on the original 1850's adobe wall will take place during the summer months as well. Follow Fort Owen State Park's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for updates on these projects and upcoming events!

News from Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Roger Anderson, District Recreation Manager, Wise River Work Center

As you may know we had a large 60,000+ acre fire along MT Hwy 43 and Trail Creek on the Wisdom District. A good portion of the NeeMeePoo Trail was burned. I've been working to get BAER funding and utilize partners (AmeriCorps STL) to help us rehabilitate the NPNHT.

News from the Bearpaw Battlefield Campaign Project

Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development

In 2018, the Montana Office of Tourism initiated the [Eastern Montana Initiative](#) (EMI) to acknowledge Eastern Montana's unique landscapes, historical and cultural sites, and opportunities for tourism and outdoor recreation. By partnering with communities across Eastern Montana, EMI seeks to strengthen and diversify local and regional economies, in part by raising awareness of Eastern Montana as a tourism destination. Grants were one component of the initiative and ranged from large scale tourism asset developments to immediate opportunities for promotion.

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The Bear Paw Battlefield Campaign Project connected and promoted two existing tourism attractions, the Bear Paw Battlefield and the Blaine County Museum. The Battlefield is 15 miles south of Chinook and the Museum is located on Chinook's Main Street. The Blaine County Museum has a significant exhibit about the battle and can assist in

encouraging visitors to take the easy-to-travel paved county road to the Battlefield. The grant was designed to promote fall and spring/summer visitation with a marketing campaign using programmatic digital and social media ads, mobile display and social media ads, a landing page on CENTRALMONTANA.COM, and production of a video of the Bear Paw Battlefield.

Interior Secretary Calls for Removal of Derogatory Names on Federal Lands

National Parks Traveler, November 21, 2021. Compiled from NPS releases.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is calling for derogatory place names to be erased from the federal landscape, a move that will require a handful of national parks to change names that dot their landscapes.

On Friday the secretary announced that a formal review process has been created to come up with new names for places currently carrying derogatory names. Along that line, she also declared “squaw” to be a derogatory term and ordered the Board on Geographic Names – the federal body tasked with naming geographic places – to implement procedures to remove the term from federal usage.

“Racist terms have no place in our vernacular or on our federal lands. Our nation’s lands and waters should be places to celebrate the outdoors and our shared cultural heritage – not to perpetuate the legacies of oppression,” said the secretary. “Today’s actions will accelerate an important process to reconcile derogatory place names and mark a



Dead Indian Creek in Yellowstone National Park along the Nez Perce Trail. Photo by Sandra Broncheau-McFarland.

significant step in honoring the ancestors who have stewarded our lands since time immemorial.”

Secretarial Order 3404 formally identifies the term “squaw” as derogatory and creates a federal task force to find replacement names for geographic features on federal lands bearing the term. The term has historically been used as an offensive ethnic, racial, and sexist slur, particularly for Indigenous women. There are currently more than 650 Federal land units that contain the term, according to a database maintained by the Board on Geographic Names.

Additionally, Secretarial Order 2405 Committee to broadly solicit, review, and recommend changes to other derogatory geographic and federal land unit names. The Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names will include representation from Indian Tribes, tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations, civil rights, anthropology, and history experts, and members of the general public. It will establish a process to solicit and assist with proposals to the Secretary to change derogatory names, and will include engagement with tribes, state and local governments, and the public.



Dead Indian Hill Summit is at 8000 feet along the NPT Auto Tour Route. The Summit's morbid name comes from the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce. Photo by Sandra Broncheau-McFarland.

Together, the Secretarial Orders will accelerate the process by which derogatory names are identified and replaced.

Currently, the Board on Geographic Names is structured, by design, to act on a case-by-case basis through a process that puts the onus on the proponents to identify the offensive name and to suggest a replacement. The process to secure review and approvals can be lengthy, often taking years to complete a name change. Currently, there are hundreds of name changes pending before the board. The newly established Federal Advisory Committee will facilitate a proactive and systematic development and review of these proposals, in consultation with local community representatives.

The Board on Geographic Names – originally established by Executive Order in 1890 – is a federal body designed to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the federal government. It is comprised of representatives from federal agencies concerned with geographic information, population, ecology, and management of public lands.

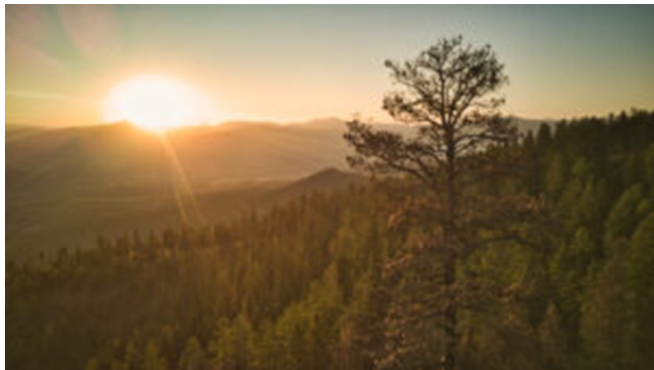
on Geographic Names and has final approval or review of its actions.

Derogatory names have previously been identified by the Secretary of the Interior or the Board on Geographic Names and have been comprehensively replaced. In 1962, Secretary Stewart Udall identified the N-word as derogatory, and directed that the BGN develop a policy to eliminate its use. In 1974, the Board on Geographic Names identified a pejorative term for “Japanese” as derogatory and eliminated its use.

Several states have passed legislation prohibiting the use of the word “squaw” in place names, including Montana, Oregon, Maine, and Minnesota. There is also legislation pending in both chambers of Congress to address derogatory names on geographic features on public land units.

Nearly 15,000 Acres Conserved

*Article Courtesy Partnership for National Trails Systems
Aerial view of Lolo Trails Landmark project area. Photo courtesy Trust for Public Land.*



Project Quick Facts

Acquired: 14,800 acres

Trail preserved: 8 miles Lewis and Clark NHT,
12 miles Nez Perce NHT

Funding source: Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

Land manager: USDA Forest Service

Cost of Acquisition: \$10,800,000

A recent acquisition of 14,800 acres in western Montana will add to the 2-million-acre footprint of the Lolo National Forest simultaneously conserving roughly 8 miles of the [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail](#) and about 12 miles of the [Nez Perce National Historic Trail](#) corridors designated by Congress in 1978 and 1986, respectively. The Lolo National Historic Landmark, which roughly traces the route taken by Merriweather Lewis and William Clark and their Shoshone Guides during their westward exploration of 1806 and other historical travels along Lolo Creek, will also be conserved by the acquisition.

The three-year process of acquiring the land began in 2018

when the landowner—a timber and real estate holding company called Weyerhaeuser—was considering divesting its Montana land holdings and so approached the Trust for Public Land about potentially purchasing one or more of their parcels in the State. Using a newly developed GIS Tool called the Northern Rockies Decision Support Tool, TPL identified the Lolo National Forest site as a high priority. Says Catherine Schmidt, a TPL Field Representative based in Bozeman, Montana who was intimately involved with the project, “This Lolo Trail Landmark Corridor really jumped out... (because) the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail just sliced right through this property.”

[Download \(PDF, 675KB\)](#)

TPL approached USDA Forest Service (USFS) staff at the Lolo National Forest about possibly working together to acquire the historically significant parcel and found that USFS already had their eyes on the land, as well. “There was a lot of management efficiency to be gained here so we were immediately interested in and identified this (parcel) as a priority for acquisition,” says Patrick Bridegam, a Realty Specialist for the USFS based in Missoula, Montana. Bridegam says it was also clear pretty quickly that the land would meet “all of the criteria of being competitive for LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) funding.”

From there, TPL calculated a rough estimate of the value of the property and realized that it was likely too expensive to be fully funded by a single LWCF request. So, the USFS and TPL went back to the landowner to negotiate a contingency

contract that allowed them to break the request up over two years. The Lolo National Forest then nominated the full parcel in two pieces across two separate LWCF funding years, submitting in both the fall of 2018 and 2019 for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Fortunately, both nominations succeeded and the USFS was able to purchase the entire 14,800-acre property for a price of \$10.8 million all at once in the summer of 2021.

For those looking to get into land acquisition for their Trails, Bridegam has some advice. “These projects really work best when there is early coordination between the agency, the partners, and the land owner,” he says. In this case, Bridegam says that early coordination “allowed us to really highlight and understand the significance of the overlap between the Historic Trails and the lands that would be coming into Forest Service management. So, the (National Historic) Trail piece was key, but it was part of a larger conversation about whether or not this acquisition was a priority or a good fit.” Still, says Bridegam, “early communication between all the parties and bringing up the significance of these trail corridors early in the process...was really what made this successful.”

Inclusion becomes a brand principal at Victoria's Secret

Courtesy Nimiiipuu Journal

Victoria's Secret is ready to reintroduce itself. In the last three years, the lingerie giant has undergone an image 180, ditching its "angels," expanding its size range, and rethinking how it markets to women.

Under the creative direction of Raúl Martínez, VS isn't about push-up bras and perpetual pink—at least not entirely. Inclusion has become a brand principle, reflected in the diverse lineup of ambassadors announced in June of last year, including names like Cello Miles, a Nez Perce tribal member and Nez Perce Tribal Wildland Firefighter. Read [more](#).

Indigenous Mapping and Research Project to Focus on National Trails

Article Courtesy of Partnership for the National Trails System

Kiana Etsate-Gashytewa has been selected as the Indigenous Mapping and Research Coordinator for a National Trails project by Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) in partnership with Native Land Digital (Native-Land.ca), Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, and Federal land management agencies. This project intends to help agency and partner organizations advance their knowledge of Ancestral Lands and increase meaningful partnerships and collaboration with Indigenous Communities along National Scenic and National Historic Trails (NSHT).



Etsate-Gashytewa is an Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps member and recent graduate of Northern Arizona University's Applied Indigenous Studies and Political Science programs. During her AmeriCorps tenure, she will develop a public/interactive GIS map that will integrate the National Trails

System data and data collected and disseminated by Native Lands Digital, the creators of an online, interactive map showing Indigenous territories. A toolkit and educational resources will accompany the map and be made available to all stakeholders. Estate-Gashytewa is of Zuni and Hopi heritage and has developed an extensive policy and research resume that includes working on numerous programs related to Native youth enrichment and in the Flagstaff office of Congressman Tom O'Halleran.

The National Trails System was established in 1968 and now

includes 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails. Many of these trails were first Indigenous sacred landscapes, and they still contain the stories of the ancient and historic trade routes of present-day Indigenous cultures. Through mapping analysis and outreach, the project will highlight these traditional territories along National Trails and start a dialogue with Indigenous communities that will help promote their involvement in future conversations, projects and decisions made on National Trails.

"National Scenic and Historic Trails showcase much of America's natural, historic and cultural heritage but there is much more to learn and share about the people, events and traditions that make the lands traversed by National Trails significant. PNTS is excited and honored to welcome Kiana and to work with the project partners to offer resources and forums for important dialogues that will help foster genuine relationships and provide space for co-creation between Indigenous communities and the public and private partners that co-manage National Scenic and Historic Trails." Valerie Rupp, PNTS Executive Director.

The project complements efforts to support the priorities of Indigenous communities on public lands as a part of conservation initiatives and planning, including the 2021 "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful" that identifies honoring Tribal sovereignty and supporting the priorities of Tribal Nations on public lands as a principle of the decade-long conservation challenge to conserve, connect, and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife.

"These priorities have opened doors to have crucial conversations and they provide the impetus to forge new and diverse partnerships/relationships that strengthen the required formal government to government consultation. This project is agency funded and intended to be the beginning of important - and necessary - conversations that will spark genuine future collaborations and foster long-standing relationships across the entire National Trail System. Through transformational partnerships, coordination, listening, and co-creation of projects we can assure that all voices are heard and that our future generations will steward these lands and trails accordingly." Carin Farley, National Scenic and Historic Trails (Lead), Bureau of Land Management.

New Chair for National Endowment for the Humanities

Courtesy of the Josephy Library

President Biden has nominated Harvard University Native American Program Executive Director Shelly C. Lowe to serve as the 12th chair of the National **Endowment for the Humanities**. Lowe is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and grew up on an Arizona reservation. The National Endowment for the Humanities is our national institution that celebrates "culture."



Angel and Calamity – Celebrating Women’s History Month

By Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

We honor an amazing woman who took charge to learn and share the Nez Perce language. This article is one example of a Nimiipuu woman who works hard and is leaving a long-lasting legacy for generations to come.

We also honor a lesser-known history of a woman who played a significant role in western history. A look at dimensions of Calamity Jane. Since the 1990’s Lapwai and Kamiah School



Photo of Angel Sobotta used with permission of Reggie Polfer, photographer.

Districts plus the Lewis and Clark State College has offered the Nimiipuu Language Program to revive a language that was nearly lost. The language is taught through more than 300 Nimiipuu stories. Angel Sobotta, Language Program Coordinator has dedicated her career to teaching the language at Lapwai Schools. Storytelling is the basis of Angel’s language teachings. This is done by use of pictures and visits to important Nimiipuu landscapes and the use of oral repetitions where Angel tells one story a week in the class-

room resulting in a reconnection with students and their language to the land that has shaped generations before them. Students start learning as early as preschool. Classes are a part of the weekly curriculum in grades 1-12.

Through guidance by the elders and working with the written record in the Nez Perce Dictionary by Dr. Haruo Aoki, and oral recordings of the Tribe’s stories the Nimiipuu Language Program was created. This continuous work with the elders and the team of Tomas Gregory, and Ann Mc Cormack they have gained a deeper understanding of many words and stories in their language. Angel and this gifted team have joined together to create a legacy that will not be lost by the passing of time. Angel is continuing her studies by earning her doctorate from the University of Idaho.

Calamity Jane - Life was not easy for Martha Jane Canary, a woman on her own in 1877. Stories about “Calamity Jane” say she developed skills to handle horses, was Scout at Fort Russell, a storyteller in the Wild West Show, hauled wood to Billings, MT to sell as fuel, mined at Klondike Gold Boom, nursed victims of Smallpox, was an Indian fighter in military campaigns, married two times to Wild Bill then James Hickok and birthed a daughter, Jesse Janey Hickok, born October 28, 1877.

While her ability to live in a man’s world was legendary, she had a softer side.

Calamity Jane besides being a colorful woman in western history is tied to the Nez Perce War 1877. It is well noted that she helped Colonel Sturgis with the wounded at the time of the Canyon Creek Battle.

In September 1877 she was living at the mouth of Canyon where she owned 320 acres. She paid \$1.00 Acre for a ½ section. After the Nez Perce Battle at Canyon Creek, she agreed to nurse eight injured soldiers as they were transported down the Yellowstone River.

From Canyon Creek, the wounded men traveled 40 miles down the north bank of the Yellowstone River to Pompey’s Pillar where they had an outdoor hospital set up.

There they secured a wide-bottomed mackinaw. This riverboat, used to haul freight, took them to a hospital on the Tongue River. The trip took eight days.

The McClelland/Stafford Ferry

Excerpted with permission from *Distinctly Montana* story. Photos, Mark Bedor, February 16, 2022

Few of us give a thought to crossing water, as we cruise the highways and cross modern bridges. But in the 1800’s, fording a river could be a dangerous and even deadly ordeal. River ferries were the first major improvement to make that task much easier. Today in Montana, three ferries still operate on remote stretches of the Missouri River, giving travelers a



chance to slow down, experience a taste of history, and soak in some beautiful country.

In the river canyon of the rugged, broken, and relatively unspoiled country known as the Missouri Breaks is the McClelland/Stafford Ferry. Lewis and Clark came through this part of central Montana in 1805 on their epic journey to the Pacific. A dirt road offers modern day adventurers a scenic drive through this beautiful area, much of which is now protected as a National Monument. In fact, this part of the world is so isolated, that when the dirt road reaches the water's edge, you'll discover there's no bridge—only a ferry.

The setting sun softens the rough terrain, painting the hills in the warm glow that makes for great photographs. The ferry is on the far side of the river when we pull up. But soon, the diesel-powered barge chugs across the water with friendly operator, Jack Carr, at the wheel.



"They planted bighorn sheep, reintroduced 'em here about 30, 35 years ago," Jack tells us. "They are the predominant animal around here right now."

Dressed in a baggy t-shirt and shorts, Jack is a former Smalltown school teacher, who genuinely enjoys piloting the ferry. "Just visiting with people is interesting," he says. "And I always ask, 'Where are you coming from and where you going?' And everyone's got a story to tell ya. And they want to know about the history of the ferry."



Photos: Mark Bedor/todayswildwest.com

Homesteader Jack McClelland put the original ferry in back in 1921, and later sold it to the Stafford family. Today the McClelland/Stafford Ferry is owned by the county. The boat runs from the first of May to the end of November. "There's a bridge upriver about 13 miles." Jack replies, when asked why there's no bridge here. "But they just don't want to disrupt this section of the river."

Just 8-10 vehicles cross on an average day, many of them tourists. But local ranchers use the ferry as well, which cuts off an hour on the trip to Billings for those north of the Missouri.

Editors Note: The Nez Perce crossed the Missouri River 24 miles downstream at Cow Island in the Summer of 1877 as they fled the US Army.

Nimiipuu Gather to Reflect on the Summer of 1877

Courtesy Nimiipuu Tribune

As the COVID-19 Pandemic lingered, Nez Perce Tribe continues to improvise and adapt in order for certain occasion and events to ensue. An example was the cancellation of the Bears Paw August commemoration due to the local rise in positive cases of the virus.

While unable to visit the site where the Battle of Bears Paw occurred, the Nez Perce people recognized the importance of commemorating that day in history. An alternative event was coordinated to allow for the memorial, but was held in Lapwai. With the event being offsite, making it culturally inappropriate to hold an official memorial, the event instead allowed for a reflection of the Nez Perce Summer of 1877.

The event, hosted by Nez Perce Tribal member and veteran, Wilfred Scott, took a unique format while still implementing many of the traditional practices. It began with the flag song and the posting of three eagle staffs. It was followed by a welcoming from Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman, Samuel Penney. Scott then read a listing of each Nez Perce battle site during that time, and the drum provided four drum beats after each one.

- June 16, **1877**, Near Grangeville - 1 killed in action
- June 17, White Bird Battle - 3 wounded in action
- July 1, Clear Creek Battle - 3 killed, 3 wounded in action
- July 5, Cottonwood Battle- 1 killed, 2 wounded in action
- July 11, Clearwater River Battle - 4 killed, 6 wounded
- August 9, Big Hole Battle- 41 killed , 19 wounded in action
- August 20, Camas Meadows Battle - 2 wounded in action
- August 13, Canyon Creek Battle- 3 killed, 3 wounded in action
- August 23, Cow Island Battle - 1 wounded
- October 5, Bears Paw Battle - 30 killed, 46 wounded in action



- November 23, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas - 21 unmarked graves
- July 21, **1878**, Baxter Springs, Kansas - 3 unknown grave sites
- October 15, Pawpaw, Oklahoma - 47 unknown grave sites
- June 14, **1879**, Tonkawa, Oklahoma - 200 tribal cemeteries,
- Dates and places unknown most on other reservations - 12 killed, 2 missing
- Dates and places unknown in Montana or Canada - 11 died

A horse ride-in occurred, where riders in traditional regalia circled the group of attendees three times. It was explained how important horses were, and continue to be for Nimiipuu. One story shared, told of the devastation to the people after the slaughter of horses by the soldiers, following a battle. Riders included Angel Sobotta on *hamqaqáyc*-gentle, kind, good natured; Renee Holt on *miyóoxat*-Chief; Jalessa Oyenque on *c'ewc'éwpe*-Coolwater; Grace Sobotta on *sayáq'ic*-Beautiful; and Faith Sobotta on *'ilp'ilp tilke'ynew'éet*-Red Warrior.

The event then became an open-mic format where folks could share their stories and thoughts from that Summer of 1877, some reflected on their lives and personal battles. These sharing moments are what made the memorial and aided in the continuing journey of healing for Nimiipuu.

Though these battles occurred over 140 years ago, for some it was their grandparents who personally experienced these tragedies and handed down the stories. The stories, while heart breaking, are a glimpse at history but also the strength, valor, and devotion of Nimiipuu. While folks listen to these stories they are reminded that through all the adversity; the Nez Perce people are still here, the culture is still alive and hearts are still strong.

New Tulsa Mural Explores Black and Indigenous Solidarity

Courtesy Nimiipuu Tribune, Story by Allison Herrera.

It's a windy night — not the ideal condition for spray-painting — but Pawnee artist Bunky Echo-Hawk doesn't mind. He's standing in front of a blank, large wall on the edge of downtown Tulsa, where he's settling in for the night to work on a new mural. "It keeps the fumes away from me," he laughs, shaking a can of lime green paint.

Echo-Hawk prepares his paint cans and stencils and starts spraying connectivity lines you might see on a circuit board when you open up a computer. Those lines will be featured along with red cedar, Indigenous leaders, Black townships, maps and intertwined hair on the wall.

Echo-Hawk is an international artist who's been painting murals all over the world for more than 20 years. He's designed for Nike and Pendleton, and his paintings can be seen at the new First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.



The mural he's working on at 3rd and Cheyenne in Tulsa explores the intertwined history of Black and Indigenous people in Oklahoma.

"[The purpose is] to kind of speak to the erasure of both Black history and Indigenous history," said Echo Hawk. "I think there is [sic] a lot of parallels that we see in both of our histories here in Oklahoma."

The project was commissioned by IllumiNative, an Oklahoma-based non-profit organization that advocates for better representation of Indigenous people in the media, education, politics and culture. They wanted to bring awareness to the parallels of Indigenous and Black history in the state, especially after the passage of HB 1775, a bill that prohibits public schools from teaching critical race theory.

It's still in its early stages, but the mural will resemble a giant ledger and with the names of tribal nations and the dates they were removed to Oklahoma. Mixed in will be the names of all 50 Black towns that were established in the state after the Civil War.

Another feature will be prominent Indigenous leaders, including Chief Joseph, the Nez Percé leader. The Nez Percé is no longer an active Tribe in Oklahoma, even though they were removed here.

"A lot of people don't know that, and it kind of speaks to the erasure of our history in Oklahoma," Echo Hawk said.

Alexander Tamahn is also working on the mural. He's part of Black Moon Collective, a group of all Black artists based in Tulsa. In the summer of 2020, during the Juneteenth celebrations, Black Moon Collective painted a large Black Lives Matter mural near Greenwood.



The mural he's working on doesn't have a title yet — they're just calling it "Black and Indigenous Solidarity" for now.



He said part of there was a lot of conversation that went into creating this work, particularly around the "land back" movement and what that means for Black Oklahomans.

"We really started focusing on the Black townships that were all throughout Oklahoma," said Tamahn.

He said many people don't know a lot about that history, or the history of the Freedmen — formerly enslaved people who came with citizens of the Five Tribes on the Trail of Tears. Tamahn said they were aware of the fact that they are on appropriated land, which was stewarded at one point by Black farmers.

One way Tamahn wanted to represent the intertwined history of Indigenous and Black people was through hair. "Colonization impacted both of our respective peoples. One of the first, I think, assaults on our personhood was through our hair," Tamahn said.

He says hair spoke volumes about who you were in both the Black and Indigenous communities. When Indigenous people were forced into boarding schools, their hair was cut to erase their identity. He says similar things happened to enslaved Black people.

"When we consider all of the conversations and just the tone around the subject of Black hair and how that kind of translates and has impacted the culture," he said.

A Black artist and an Indigenous artist working together using bright colors, Tamahn and Echo Hawk will connect the two communities with maps of Black townships, connecting

computer circuitry and red cedar, something a lot of people think of as an invasive species. Bunky Echo Hawk explains why.

"I think it's indicative of our forced migration here," said Echo Hawk. "I think it followed us here as Indigenous people on our various Trails of Tears. It's our medicine and for us, it represents everlasting life."

Both artists hope the work will spark questions and a new understanding of their shared history.

The mural is set at the corner of North Cheyenne and 3rd Street in downtown Tulsa.

***luk'upsimey* and the Treaties Exhibit**

Courtesy Rich Wanschneider, Library Director, Josephy Center for Arts & Culture

A group of seven Nez Perce artists and writers who call themselves *luk'upsimey*—"North Star"— Collective has been together at the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland for the past week, practicing their art, learning and relearning their language together. They are college professors and language teachers, visual artists and wordmakers, from California and Arizona, Philadelphia and Lapwai, who came together in this Wallowa place that echoes their ancient common *nimiipuu* --Nez Perce--language.

On Friday night they came to the Josephy Center to say their poems and stories in Nez Perce and English. Two of the seven, Phil Cash Cash and Kellen Trenal, have work in the current exhibit, "Nez Perce Treaties and Reservations: 1855-Present." We heard from them about the art, and heard Phil play the Indian flute and watched Kellen dance.

I've been at this Josephy Center work for almost ten years. We've been successful as an organization, making our way through the pandemic with virtual and hybrid programs about Covid and Fire, Natural Resources and the local health care system, making and giving away over 1000 art bags with individual supplies and art projects to children and parents. But this exhibit and Friday night's words and music have been a highlight for me, and the surest proof that our work is important.

People are reading the words of the exhibit, seeing how white men's words helped dispossess Indians of their lands, how promises made were not kept, how hopes were dashed and treaty words and the Nez Perce War of 1877 divided an Indian nation. But learning too how the words of those same treaties still have legal currency, and the Nez Perce are fishing, hunting, and gathering today in "usual and accustomed places" as promised almost 150 years ago.

Historian Bill Lang and his wife, Maryanne, drove from

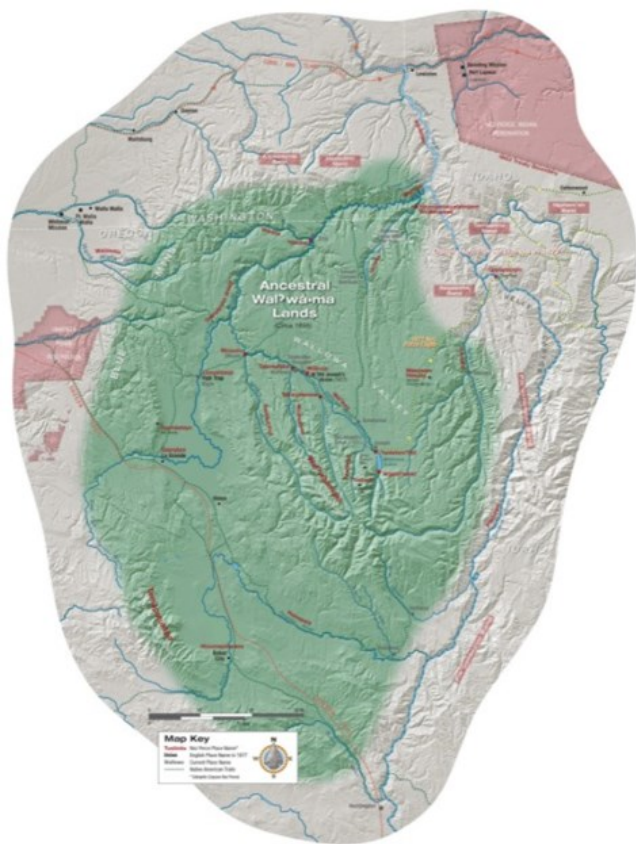


Portland to be at Friday's event. As they were leaving, I asked—knowing the answer by the looks on their faces—whether the drive had been worth it. Rich, Bill said, and I paraphrase: "I've been reading treaty language and Indian speeches from across the country, and especially the Northwest, for years. And those Indian words always end with 'I have spoken my heart'; we heard seven nimiipuu artists speak their hearts tonight."

At the end of the evening, we all learned to say e'ci'yew'yew', which is "Thank you." I say it again, qe'ci'yew'yew'.

Map of the *wal'wá·ma* country produced for our wall display at the Josephy Center. The graphic artist is Rob Kemp, a local man with a string of graphic credits at US News, National Geo, etc. He based the map on the work of the Sahaptin placenames produced by Phil Cash and others. It was printed on wallpaper and people have to touch it to see if it is raised relief.

[Click here](#) (or on the map) to see a larger version of the map. You can have a beautifully printed poster-sized copy of it for \$10/ \$15 shipped in a tube. And while we are at it, we carry copies of *Cáw Pawá Láakni/ They Are Not Forgotten*, the book mentioned above. It's \$30/ \$35 with shipping. It is a marvelous piece of geographical and ethnological research.



Yellowstone National Park 150th Presenters Sought for the Tribal Heritage Center

Yellowstone Forever and the Yellowstone National Park are seeking participants for the Yellowstone Tribal Heritage Center this summer as they mark 150 years of Yellowstone. The Yellowstone Tribal Heritage Center is a pilot program that will highlight Indigenous artist, scholars, and presenters, providing an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to directly engage visitors through formal and informal education.

If you are a member of one of Yellowstone's 27 Associated Tribes and an artist or presenter, please consider submitting a proposal to be a cultural demonstrator in Yellowstone this summer. The Park and Yellowstone Forever will host a series of individual Tribal presenters in the historic Haynes Photo Shop at Old Faithful from Thursday, May 26, 2022, through Friday, September 20, 2022. Presenters will engage the public with cultural presentations and will be provided a stipend and lodging. Please visit the Yellowstone Tribal Heritage Center website for more information, Frequently Asked Questions, and a link to submit a proposal.

Yellowstone Forever, alongside the National Park Service, are committed to working with Tribal partners, educators, and advocates to elevate the Tribal presence and representation in Yellowstone National Park. **In summer 2022 the park will be piloting a Yellowstone Tribal Heritage Center.** The Tribal Heritage Center will highlight Native American artists, scholars, and presenters, providing an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to directly engage visitors through formal and informal education.

WHO: Artists, creators, and/or presenters from Yellowstone's [Associated Tribes](#).

LOCATION: Old Faithful - Yellowstone National Park, WY (Haynes Photo Shop)

LENGTH OF TIME: Presenters may submit cultural demonstration proposals ranging in length from two (2) to ten (10) days. Presentations will not occur on Sundays and Mondays.

ENGAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS: Cultural demonstrators will be asked to formally present to the public two times a day, and informally interact with the public around six hours a day (total, not necessarily consecutively).

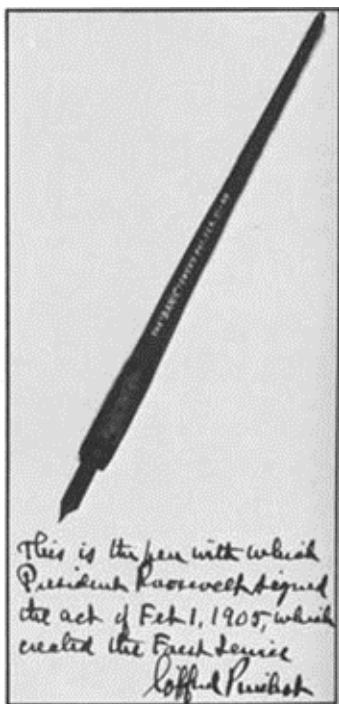
[Link](#) to more information.

117th Anniversary of Forest Service

Story and photo Courtesy RFT Corner

February 1st marked the 117th anniversary of the founding of the Forest Service. A new era in forestry began in 1905 as Congress transferred the Forest Reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of

Agriculture. The Bureau of Forestry became known as the Forest Service, the first of many Federal agencies to adopt the designation of "Service" two years later, to emphasize that the forests were for use, the name Forest Reserve was changed to National Forest. Administration was decentralized to take maximum advantage of local judgment. [Learn more about the history of the Forest Service here.](#)



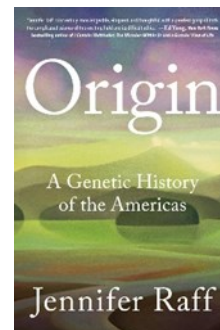
This is a photo of the actual pen used by President Theodore Roosevelt to sign the Act that transferred the Forest Reserves to the Department of Agriculture on Feb. 1, 1905. The note at the bottom was penned by Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the Forest Service.

Fun fact: This pen and note are framed and on display in the Chief Moore's office. If you have an opportunity to visit the Washington Office, visit the Chief's Office and ask if you can see the pen. Gifford's desk is also in the Chief's Office.

New Books

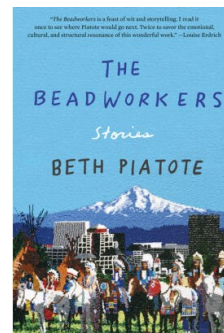
Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas, Jennifer Raff

According to reviewer Jeremy DeSilva, "She builds a persuasive case with both archaeological and genetic evidence that the path to the Americas was coastal (the Kelp Highway hypothesis) rather than inland, and that Beringia was not a bridge but a homeland — twice the size of Texas — inhabited for millennia by the ancestors of the First Peoples of the Americas." Published by Twelve. ISBN:13: 9781538749715.



The Beadworkers Stories, Beth Piatote

A luminous debut collection opens with a feast, grounding its stories in the landscapes and lifeworlds of the Native Northwest, exploring the inventive and unforgettable pattern of Native American life in the contemporary world. Told with humor, subtlety, and spareness, the mixed-genre works of Beth Piatote's first collection find unifying themes in the strength of kinship, the pulse of longing, and the language of return. Beth is Nez Perce. Published by Counterpoint Press. ISBN: 9781640094277.



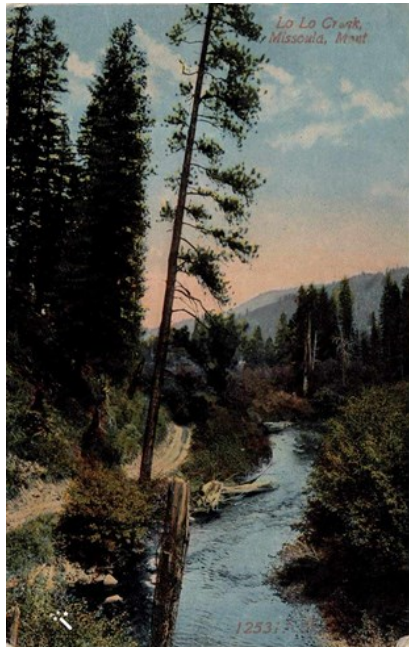
Yellowstone National Cemetery, Laurel, MT, was established in 1886. Among the many buried here include military from the Battle of the Bill Hole and Bear Paw in Montana in 1877.



Photo: Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

Auto Tour Route

near Lolo Hot Springs in 1910. Hand colored postcard.



The Wisdom of Chief Joseph

Chief Joseph, who was brought to Seattle to watch a college football game -a contest that made no sense to him- and to give a speech in which he communicated his exhaustion and resentment at having been paraded around like a sideshow exhibit for years.

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Chief Joseph joined Buffalo Bill Cody in Madison Square Garden in 1897—one wonders whether he was paid, or whether it was the price of meeting with high-ranking politicians.

## Story Contributions & Mailing List

The NPNHT Quarterly Progress Report is prepared by Trail Administrator Sandra Broncheau-McFarland and her partner Kristine Komar with the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust.

If you would like to be added to the email list, please send your contact information to Kristine Komar at [kk@BRCHT.org](mailto:kk@BRCHT.org).

We also welcome your story contributions and photographs (with captions) to the effort!

## Upcoming Events

March 25-26, 2022 [Montana State University Pow Wow](#), Bozeman, MT

March 25, 2022 **Camas Sacred Food of the Nez Perce** documentary premieres on the [Lolo Pass Visitor Center YouTube Channel](#), Friday, March 25

April 2, 2022 21<sup>st</sup> Annual [Tuxinmpu Pow Wow](#), ICCU Arena, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

April 9, 2022 44<sup>th</sup> Annual [Pah-Loots-Puu Pow Wow](#), Beasley Coliseum, WSU, Pullman, WA

June 11, 2022 **National Get Outdoors Day**

June 25, 2022 **Traditional Place Name and Camas in Bloom Commemoration**, [Lolo Pass Visitor Center](#)



July 25-29, 2022 [Chief Joseph Trail Ride #56](#), Route TBD

August 6, 2022 (*tentative*) **Annual Commemoration of the Battle of the Big Hole**, Big Hole National Battlefield, Wisdom, MT

October 2, 2022 (*tentative*) **Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Bear Paw**, Bear Paw Battlefield, Chinook, MT

October 24-27, 2022 24<sup>th</sup> Annual [American Indian Tourism Conference](#), "Rising Together for the Journey Ahead", Harrah's Resort Southern California, Funnar, CA

April 17-21, 2023 **International Trails Symposium**, Reno, NV, [www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)

**Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail—Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator**

[sandra.broncheau-mdfarland@usda.gov](mailto:sandra.broncheau-mdfarland@usda.gov)

1270 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544—208 476-8234—<https://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht>

Kristine Komar, Editor—[kk@brcht.org](mailto:kk@brcht.org)