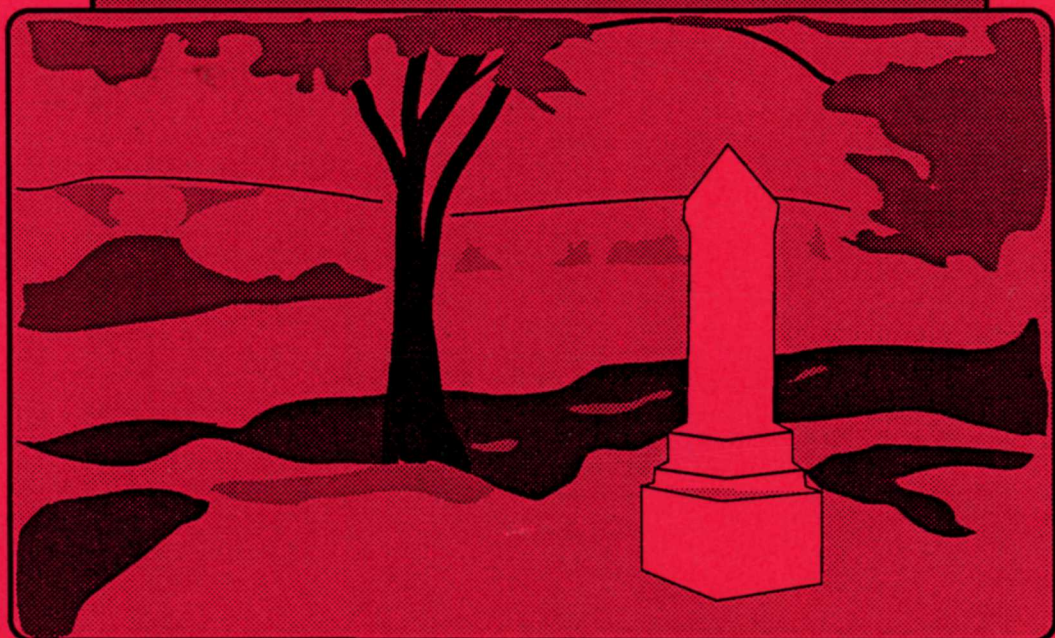


NEZ PERCE
NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK

ADDITIONS STUDY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

1990

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This study examines seventeen sites located in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana as possible additions to, or as potential National Park System units associated with, Nez Perce National Historical Park, headquartered in Spalding, Idaho. This report, which updates the unpublished 1969 National Park Service report "Nez Perce Additions: A Study of Alternatives," was undertaken at the request of Senators Hatfield and Packwood of the Oregon congressional delegation in response to concerns expressed by representatives of the Wallowa, Oregon, community; the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee; and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. This study was prepared by the Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service. Members of the study team included representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as regional and park personnel. Draft versions of the report have been reviewed and commented on by interested public agencies, tribal councils, and private groups in all four states.

Nez Perce National Historical Park was authorized by Congress (Public Law 89-19, May 15, 1965) "to facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country of Idaho that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation." As established, the park's 24 existing units reflect a "string of pearls" concept unique within the National Park System. Each unit is related to one of the nationally significant themes associated with westward expansion identified in Section 2 of the enabling legislation: "early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the area, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining and logging, the Nez Perce war of 1877, and such other sites as...will depict the role of the Nez Perce country in the westward expansion of the Nation." (See also Appendix B). Only four of the units, however, are currently owned in fee simple by the National Park Service; the other sites are publicly or privately-owned and exist under the park's umbrella through a variety of cooperative agreements and designations. The flexibility for developing these cooperative arrangements would be a critical factor in determining how the sites discussed in this study might also be brought under the park's umbrella. Some possible arrangements are discussed in the individual site evaluations beginning on p. 30 of the report.

Fourteen of the seventeen sites studied were found to be suitable and feasible for addition to or association with the park. That is,

they represent nationally significant cultural resources associated with one of the themes identified by Congress in the park's enabling legislation, and, thus, they would be suitable additions to the park. It was beyond the scope of this study to make a thorough analysis of alternatives to the inclusion of each of these sites under the park's umbrella. As noted above, however, the uniqueness of the park's legislation does not require direct management of these sites by the National Park Service. Developing cooperative agreements with the various public and private owners of these sites would enhance the sites' interpretation and protection by identifying them as worthy of preservation and by associating them with other related sites; inclusion of these sites in the park would also better enable the National Park Service to fulfill its mandate to interpret the themes associated with the park. It is the task force's position that the details of these cooperative agreements would be best left to the discretion of the Secretary to negotiate within the guidelines provided by the park's authorization.

The majority of these sites are associated with the 1877 Nez Perce War. This concentration reflects both the focus of the original 1969 report and the National Historic Landmark study of 1877 campaign sites that took place during 1987 and 1988, leading to the designation of several sites examined in this study as National Historic Landmarks. The remaining sites are related to the other themes associated with westward expansion and the history of the Nez Perce country identified in Appendix C.

Four of the sites are located in Idaho and could be added to the park through cooperative agreements under the existing legislation. The remaining sites are located in Oregon, Washington, and Montana. To incorporate these sites into the park, the existing legislation would have to be amended to 1) permit inclusion of sites outside of the current State of Idaho boundaries; 2) increase the existing ceiling on the amount and acreage authorized for acquisition of lands and scenic easements; and 3) increase the existing ceiling on construction and development in the park.

Incorporation or association of these additional sites; increased cooperation with other local, state, and federal groups and agencies in interpreting and managing the resources related to the park's themes; and further development of existing park resources are all strategies identified in this report that would enhance the park's ability to present a comprehensive overview of the history and culture of the Nez Perce, as mandated by the authorizing legislation.

Sites suitable/feasible for addition to the Nez Perce National Historical Park

1. Tolo Lake (ID)
2. Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite (ID)
3. Buffalo Eddy (WA/ID)
4. Dug Bar (OR)
5. Hasotino (ID)
6. Camas Meadows Battle Sites (ID)
7. Joseph Canyon Viewpoint (OR)
8. Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite (OR)
9. Traditional Campsite at the Historic Junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers (OR)
10. Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger (WA)
11. Nez Perce Campsites (WA)
12. Big Hole National Battlefield (MT)
13. Bear's Paw Battleground (MT)
14. Canyon Creek (MT)

In addition, the task force recognizes the importance of the Nez Perce Retreat Trail as it passes through Yellowstone National Park and believes it would be suitable for the trail's interpretation to be coordinated with the interpretive programs of Nez Perce National Historical Park.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

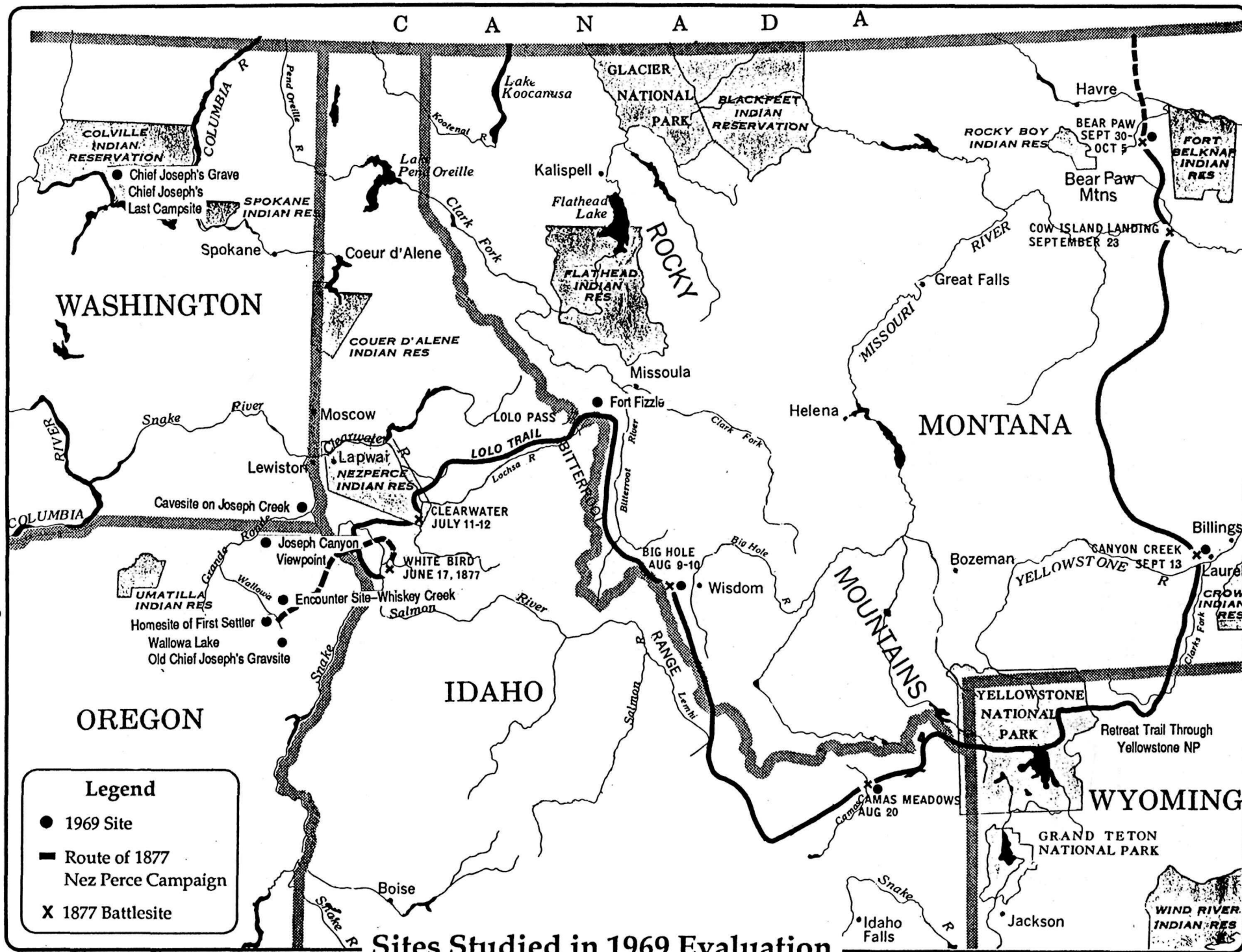


This study examines sites located in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana as potential additions to, or independent National Park System sites associated with, Nez Perce National Historical Park. Included in this group are three of the twelve sites investigated for the unpublished 1969 National Park Service report "Nez Perce Additions: A Study of Alternatives." The basic premise behind this report and the 1969 study is that the limits imposed by the authorizing legislation for the park (PL 89-19), which restrict the park to sites within the State of Idaho, preclude a comprehensive presentation of the history and culture of the Nez Perce by the park. The majority of sites reviewed for this study are associated with Chief Joseph's homeland, the Wallowa Country of Oregon; the Nez Perce War of 1877; and the exile of Chief Joseph and his followers on the Colville Indian Reservation in northeastern Washington. Additional sites are associated with prehistoric Nez Perce culture.

Background

Nez Perce National Historical Park (NEPE) was authorized in 1965 by Congress to protect and interpret sites in "the Nez Perce country of Idaho (emphasis added) that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation," including those relating to "the early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark expedition through the area, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining and logging, (and) the Nez Perce War of 1877." The park is unique within the National Park System, involving cooperative management of twenty-four sites in Idaho by the National Park Service (NPS), the Nez Perce Tribe, the State of Idaho, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and private landowners. Only four of the park's units are owned by the National Park Service.

In restricting the park to sites within Idaho, the legislation excluded important sites associated with the Nez Perce story, leaving them outside of the park's purview. Among the most significant of these excluded sites are those found in the Wallowa Country of northeastern Oregon—the homeland of Chief Joseph and a critical part of the story of the 1877 Nez Perce War. Recognizing this limitation, private organizations and individuals of Wallowa County began petitioning their congressional representatives in 1967, requesting that sites in Wallowa County be considered for addition to the park. Congressional requests for a study of these



proposals were received by the National Park Service from former Senator Wayne L. Morse, Senator Mark O. Hatfield, and former Representative Al Ullman. In response, the Service fielded a study team and in 1969 prepared a draft report "Nez Perce Additions: A Study of Alternatives." The report reviewed twelve sites and recommended that the authorizing legislation be amended to permit the addition of two sites in Oregon to the park. Subsequently, Representative Ullman sponsored bills in both the 91st and 92nd Congress to amend the legislation to allow for the inclusion of sites in Oregon. Although the NPS report was never published, and no action on its recommendations was taken by either the Service or Congress, the issue of adding the sites associated with Chief Joseph remained alive within the Wallowa County community and among members of various Nez Perce Bands located on the Nez Perce (Idaho), Umatilla (Oregon), and Colville (Washington) Indian Reservations. In August of 1985, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NEPTEC) passed a resolution affirming the significance of the Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite on the shore of Wallowa Lake near Joseph, Oregon—one of the sites recommended for inclusion in the park in the 1969 NPS Study. NEPTEC'S concern that potential residential/commercial development of adjacent properties threatened the site was echoed in subsequent meetings held later in 1985 and 1986 by a group of concerned Wallowa County residents, who requested the National Park Service's cooperation in gaining recognition and protection for the site and again suggested that it be incorporated into Nez Perce NHP as a cooperative site. Meetings held in October and November of 1986, which included representatives of the Wallowa County community, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and NEPTEC, endorsed the proposal to add the Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite to the park.

These groups also contacted Senators Hatfield and Packwood, who, in turn, contacted the NPS for information and assistance on this issue. In response to these inquiries, the Pacific Northwest Regional Office (PNRO) of the National Park Service committed to undertaking a review of the 1969 study and providing a report on the suitability and feasibility of possible additions to the Nez Perce NHP. This report fulfills that commitment.

It should also be noted that the concerns about potential residential/commercial development of properties adjacent to the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite have been borne out. In 1989, while the draft of this report was being circulated for comment, petitions for subdivision of the adjacent 68-acre parcel were presented to the Wallowa County Planning Commission.

Preparation of The Report

This report represents the findings of the task force assembled by the National Park Service in 1987. The task force consisted of the Superintendent, Nez Perce NHP, and four representatives of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office—the Regional Historian, the Regional Archeologist, the Chief of Resource Management (who participated in the 1969 Study), and an Interpretive Specialist who had previously worked at the park. In addition, a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Forest Service's Manager for the newly-designated Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and the former Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (a noted authority on Idaho and Northwest history) participated in the site inspections and provided comments on the significance of the sites. Assistance was also received from the staff of Nez Perce NHP and from the Superintendent of Coulee Dam National Recreation Area. Additional site information was gleaned from the National Historic Landmark "1877 Nez Perce Campaign" theme study that was expanded in 1987 and 1988.

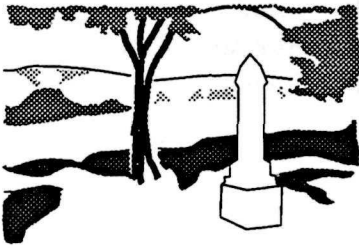
The team identified three tasks:

- inspecting sites identified as potential candidates for additions to NEPE;
- consulting with the various groups who expressed an interest in the additions issue; and
- preparing a report that summarized the status of each site reviewed, the suitability/feasibility of adding each site, and other related issues.

The site inspections and consultations with the different groups were accomplished during the week of July 6, 1987. Sites in Clarkston, Washington; Wallowa County, Oregon; and the Colville Indian Reservation in northeastern Washington were visited. (A list of sites reviewed is found on p. 26). Meetings were held with the staff of Nez Perce NHP, NEPTEC, members of the Wallowa community, and representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation and of the Nez Perce on the Colville Reservation. Subsequently, members of the team provided the Superintendent with their comments and recommendations and the NPS participants met in October 1987 to consolidate the findings.

Drafts of this study have been widely circulated within the Service, the Department of the Interior, and other public agencies, tribal councils, and private groups within the Pacific Northwest. Comments received from these groups have been considered in the preparation of this final report.

THE REGION



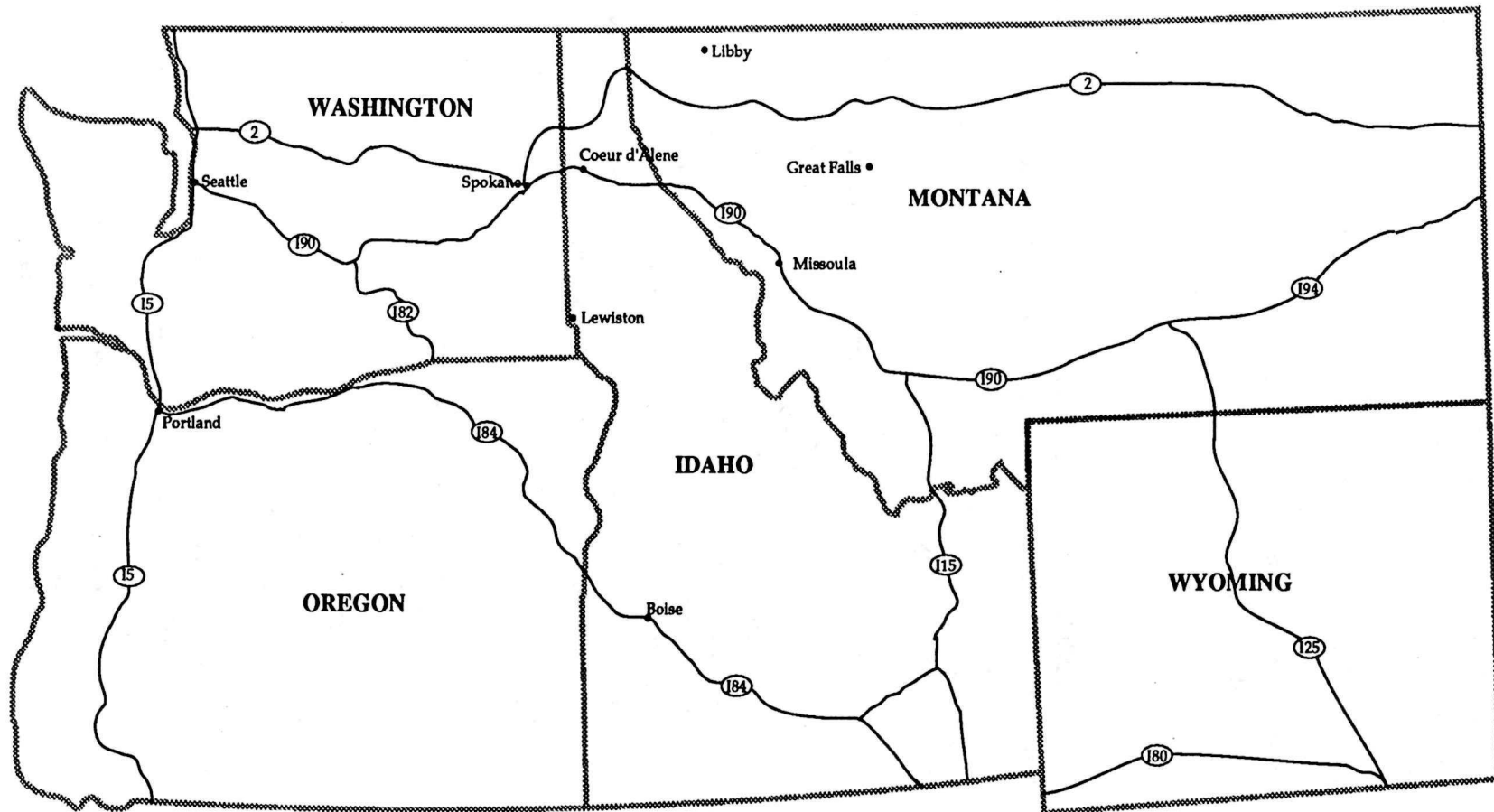
The sites considered in the study are located within a four-state area extending from north-central Washington eastward to Idaho and western Montana and south to northeastern Oregon. The sites in Oregon and Idaho fall within what anthropologists consider to be the traditional cultural territory of the Nez Perce or the Ne-Mee-Poo. It is a land of great beauty and great diversity encompassing

a mosaic of forested mountains, some with elevations above 3,048 meters (10,000 feet); high plateau prairies and huge, undulating hills; steep grassy ridges and escarpments of rimrock; and awesomely deep valleys and canyons that, in the area of Lewiston, Idaho, descend to as low as 229 meters (750 feet) above sea level. (*Nez Perce Country*, p. 1)

The Colville Reservation in north-central Washington is north of this traditional Nez Perce country. Thus, although Chief Joseph and his followers were finally returned to the Northwest and settled on the Colville Reservation, their enforced alienation from their Wallowa homeland in northeastern Oregon continued. Beyond the Bitterroot Mountains, the traditional eastern boundary of their territory, western Montana was familiar to the Nez Perce as buffalo country.

General Setting

The Wallowa Country, Chief Joseph's homeland, is one of the major scenic attractions in the State of Oregon. Often called the "The Switzerland of America," it is bounded on three sides by almost impenetrable natural features. On the east it is bordered by one of the deepest gorges in North America—the Hells Canyon of the Snake River, which averages 5,500 feet from rim to river soaring to 9,845 feet. To the south are the 10,000 foot Wallowa Mountains, while the deep canyon of the Grande Ronde cuts across the northwest corner of the country. To the west of the Grande Ronde lie the rolling Blue Mountains. Within Wallowa Country is the beautiful Wallowa Lake, situated at the northern base of the Wallows and the southern extremity of the Wallowa Valley. This deep, clear blue lake is three and one-half miles long and more than three-fourths of a mile wide. It was formed by the damming of glacial drift, and offers a classic example of both a terminal and lateral moraine. The Old Chief Joseph Gravesite is located in a small Nez Perce and pioneer cemetery on the north shore overlooking the lake. Wallowa Lake State Park is on the south shore and a scattering of small privately-owned cabins and houses dot the landscape surrounding the lake.



Map of the Study Area

Farther to the west in Wallowa County is a traditional campsite, located at the historical junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers, approximately three-quarters of a mile from the present day junction of the two rivers. Looking over the grassy pastures that now support cattle, one can vividly imagine the teepees that lined the rivers' banks and the herds of grazing horses that once filled this scene. In the northeast corner of the county, along State Highway 3, is the Joseph Canyon Overlook from whence there is a spectacular view of the rugged country along the Snake River and of the Joseph Creek Canyon where the Wallowa Nez Perce traditionally wintered.

The Nez Perce Country of north-central Idaho features high prairies and undulating hills, steeply cut by fast-flowing rivers such as the Clearwater, the Salmon, and the Snake to form deep, sheltered valleys. To the east, the traditional territory of the Nez Perce in Idaho is bounded by the Bitterroot Mountains; the eastern half of this territory is today largely incorporated into national forest lands, including the St. Joe, the Lolo, the Clearwater, the Bitterroot, and the Nez Perce National Forests. To the west, the Snake River forms both a physical and political boundary, although, historically, the Nez Perce's cultural homeland extended beyond into present-day southeastern Washington and the Wallowa Country described in the preceding paragraphs. Like the Wallowa Country, the lush natural grasslands of the western segment of this country once sustained large wildlife populations as well as the herds of horses kept by the Nez Perce. Today, this area is largely devoted to dryland farming and cattle ranching, with the majority of population clustered in the Lewiston-Clarkston metropolitan area along the Snake River.

At present, as prescribed by the authorizing legislation, all 24 sites of Nez Perce NHP are found within the Nez Perce Country of Idaho. Six of the sites reviewed as potential additions to the park are also located here: Buffalo Eddy, Tolo Lake, Ahsahka Village, Looking Glass' Campsite, Hasotino, and Camas Meadows battlesite. Buffalo Eddy and Dug Bar are found in the Snake River above Hells Canyon. The Hasotino site is located five miles south of Lewiston on a floodplain bar on the east side of the Snake River. Tolo Lake lies in the midst of the wheat fields on the high prairies of the Grangeville area. The Ahsahka Village site is on the north bank of the north fork of the Clearwater River, just northeast and across the river from the Canoe Camp unit of the park. The Looking Glass' Campsite on Clear Creek is situated on the middle fork of the Clearwater, just above its confluence with the south fork of

the Clearwater, at the point where Clear Creek enters the middle fork of the Clearwater. Of these latter three sites, Tolo Lake most clearly retains a visual sense of its historic appearance at the outbreak of the 1877 Nez Perce War. Camas Meadows in southeastern Idaho near the Targhee Pass also retains a high degree of visual integrity.

Sparsely settled western Montana, with its dense forests and the rugged Bitterroot and Rocky Mountain ranges bounding the Bitterroot Valley on the east and west, remains essentially unchanged since the Nez Perce crossed the Continental Divide into the Big Hole Basin in August 1877. Pursued by Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard's troops, they fought their way out of the Big Hole Battlefield, which is preserved as a National Battlefield, and south through the Big Hole Valley. Twice more they crossed the Continental Divide at Bannack Pass and, after the skirmishes at Camas Meadows, at Targhee Pass. The hardships endured by the Nez Perce, the feat they accomplished in moving their families and possessions through this difficult terrain, can be readily imagined by today's travelers.

In the final stage of the 1877 campaign, after they crossed the Yellowstone Plateau and the infant national park, the Nez Perce traveled through the "Big Sky" country of central and eastern Montana. Although millions of grazing sheep and cattle have replaced the buffalo herds that traditionally drew the Nez Perce to this country, the ambience of the gentle rolling countryside of the northern great plains remains. The tall grass and sweeping vistas of the Bear's Paw Battlefield evoke images of the last desperate battle and the final surrender of Chief Joseph and the remaining Nez Perce.

The lush grasslands and dense forests of the traditional Nez Perce homelands contrast with the semi-arid landscape of the Colville Indian Reservation located on the southwestern corner of the Columbia Plateau in north-central Washington. Here sage brush, bunch grass, and scattered trees are the dominant forms of vegetation. The mighty Columbia River, which bounds the reservation to the east and the south, has been tamed, the sharpness of its cut through the plateau now muted by the formation of Lake Roosevelt behind Grand Coulee Dam. The valleys formed by the rivers and numerous creeks that crisscross the reservation and feed into the Columbia are also more muted than the steep canyons of the Wallowa Country and the dramatic landforms of the Columbia Basin to the south. Despite these differences, the winter and

summer campsites of Chief Joseph and his followers are testimony to their determination to follow their traditional ways, even when their new environment no longer mandated the traditional seasonal migrations between higher and lower elevations once necessary for survival. At Chief Joseph's burial site in the small Nez Perce cemetery on the reservation, the sparse vegetation contrasts poignantly with the brightly-colored ornaments and memorabilia that decorate the earthen mounds covering the graves.

Socio-Economic Profile

The area surveyed by this study is predominantly rural. Population density generally falls within a range of 2-6 persons per square mile. The major population center within the traditional Nez Perce country is the Lewiston, Idaho-Clarkston, Washington metropolitan area, which has a combined population of 50,000, with 30,000 of Nez Perce County's 33,000 residents living in the Lewiston area. In western and central Montana, the major communities are Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, Billings, and Great Falls. More typical are the communities such as Enterprise and Joseph, Oregon; Nespalem and Republic, Washington; Orofino and Grangeville, Idaho; and Wisdom and Chinook, Montana, which serve as small "urban" outposts scattered throughout the vast expanses of the Northwest. Indian reservations, including the Colville, Umatilla, Nez Perce, Blackfeet, and Fort Belknap Reservations, control large tracts of territory in all four states.

The primary economic activities throughout the region are agriculture, mining, and forestry. Dry farming and beef production predominates on privately-owned land. Federal ownership, primarily in National Forest lands (25 million acres) managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and vast tracts of grazing lands controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (20 million in Idaho and Montana), is a dominant factor in the regional economy. The ports of Lewiston and Clarkston provide a major outlet for the region's products.

The recreation and tourist industries are also significant factors in the regional economy. The spectacular scenery and natural resources throughout the Northwest provide excellent opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, photography, boating, waterskiing, hunting, and fishing. In addition to numerous privately-owned facilities and local fairs and celebrations, there are major recreational opportunities on public lands, including Yellowstone National Park (WY/MT-NPS) and

the Paysaten Wilderness Area (WA-USFS), components of the National Wild and Scenic River System (ID-USFS) and Grand Coulee Dam's Lake Roosevelt (WA-NPS), Wallowa Lake State Park (Oregon State Parks), and the series of state parks constructed along the levees of the Snake River by the U. S. Corps of Engineers, which provide a gateway to Hells Canyon NRA (ID/WA - USFS). The USFS/NPS study prepared for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Trail lists 82 federal, state, and private major recreational facilities in the region.

Access

Access to the rugged Wallowa County has not significantly changed since the 1969 study was undertaken. The two main travel routes are State Route 3 and State Route 82. Other routes, with a few minor exceptions, are unpaved forest access roads.

State Route 3 extends from Enterprise north to Lewiston. Sections of this route are winding and tortuous with steep grades, and are not conducive to general travel. The Joseph Canyon Viewpoint is a small pull-off along Route 3. State Route 82 originates in Joseph and heads north and west through Enterprise and Wallowa to Elgin in neighboring Union County. From that point it turns southward to La Grande where it intersects with Interstate 84. State Route 82 also intersects at Elgin with State Route 204, which proceeds in a northwesterly direction toward the border with Washington. The Old Chief Joseph Gravesite at Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa-Lostine Rivers Campsite are readily accessible from Route 82.

The Nez Perce cemetery where young Chief Joseph is buried is off of a local road connecting two main north-south routes, State Routes 155 and 21, through the Colville Indian Reservation. To the south, State Route 155 connects with U.S. 2, one of the main cross-state highways, just east of Coulee City, and proceeds in a general northerly direction along Banks Lake and up through the reservation to its intersection with U.S. 97 at Omak. East of Route 155, State Route 21 follows a more direct north-south route through the reservation to Republic, the county seat.

South of the reservation and Lake Roosevelt, Route 21 intersects with U.S. 90, the primary east-west route through Washington, and U.S. 2. The closest light plane facility is located south of Nespelam at Electric City; Spokane International Airport is approximately 100 miles southeast of Nespelam. Travel to and through the reservation is primarily by automobile.

Nineteen of the twenty-four sites that now comprise Nez Perce NHP are all accessible from a northwesterly to southeasterly loop out of Lewiston formed by U.S. 95 and U.S. 12 and State Route 13. The sites in Nez Perce County suitable for additions to the park—Hasotino, Tolo Lake, and Looking Glass' Campsite—can also be reached and viewed from points off of this loop. Lewiston Airport provides commuter airline connections and light plane facilities.

Big Hole National Battlefield and the Canyon Creek sites can both be reached via State routes off of the main north-south (U.S. 15 and U.S. 93) and east-west (U.S. 90) interstates through Montana. Big Hole may be approached by traveling south from Missoula on U.S. 93 and east on State Rt. 43 or by traveling southwest on U.S. 15 and State Rt. 43 from Butte. Canyon Creek is north of Laurel and U. S. 90 off of Rt. 532. From the west, The Bear's Paw battlefield may be approached from U.S. 15 by traveling northeast on U. S. 87 from Great Falls, east on U.S. 2 and south from Chinook on secondary roads. Approach from the east is possible from U.S. 2 across Montana to Chinook or from U.S. 90, north on U.S. 87, Rt. 19, U.S. 191 and Rt. 66, through the Fort Belknap Reservation and then east on U. S. 2 to Chinook.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Introduction



The following historical narrative was prepared originally for the 1969 National Park Service "Additions Study." Its focus, in keeping with the thrust of the 1969 study, was the 1877 Nez Perce War. As the majority of sites evaluated for this report are also related to the Nez Perce campaign, its roots, and its aftermath, it is appropriate to reprint this narrative here because of the excellent context it provides for understanding the significance of the individual sites and their relationship to each other. Additional discussion of the significance of the Nez Perce Campaign can be found in Appendix D, which reproduces the statement of significance (Section E) from the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form prepared by Dr. Merle Wells, former Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer and a consulting member of this task force.

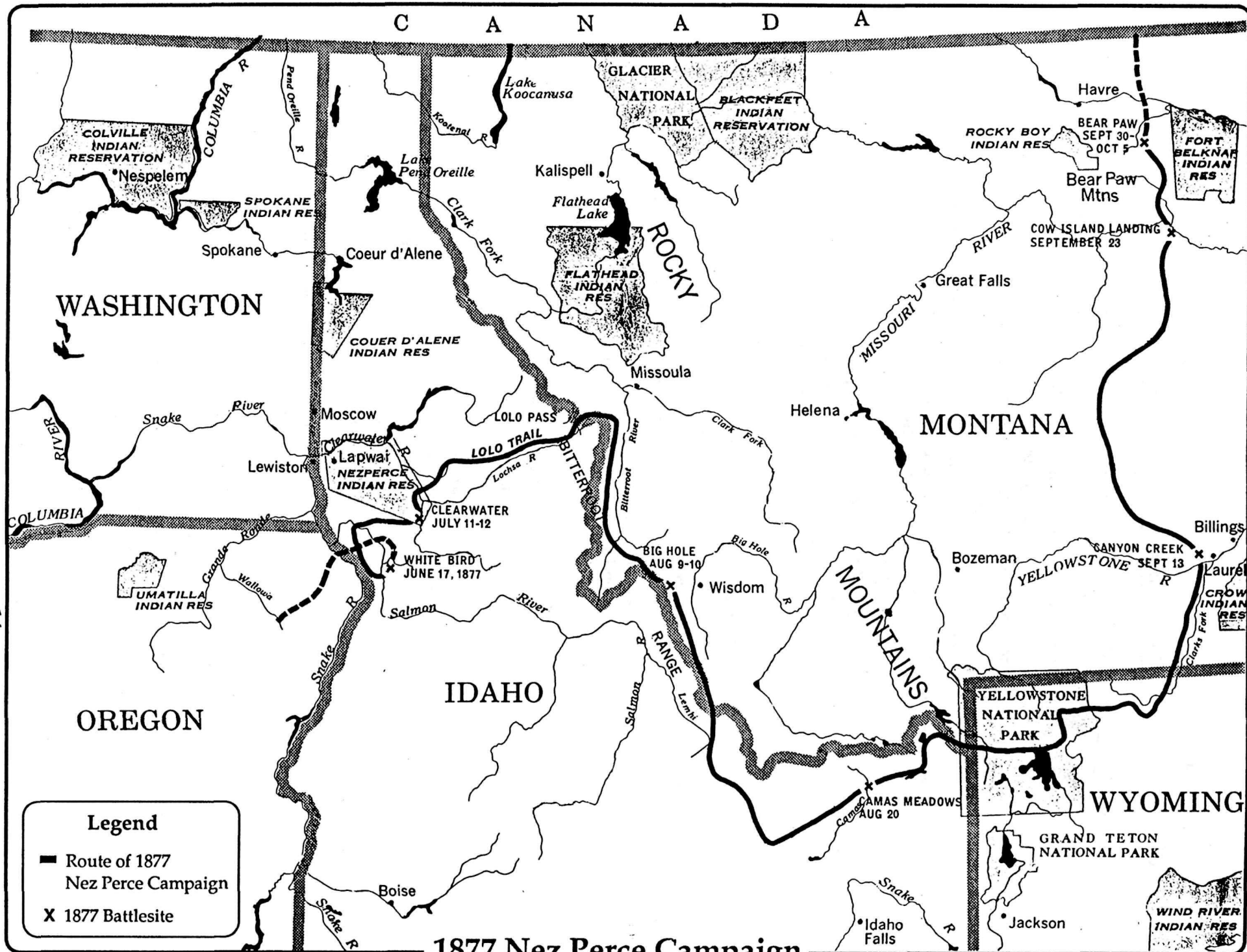
However, it should also be noted that the 1877 conflict was a brief, if violent, disruption in what had been notably peaceful relations between white explorers, adventurers, and settlers moving through and into Nez Perce country and the Nez Perce tribe, beginning with the Lewis and Clark expedition and including the first Spalding mission on Lapwai Creek. Prior to the arrival of the whites, the Nez Perce and their ancestors had occupied this territory for more than 9000 years. The legislation authorizing the establishment of Nez Perce National Historical Park recognizes the importance of understanding and interpreting the multiple themes related to Nez Perce history and prehistory. The National Park Service handbook, *Nez Perce Country*, provides an excellent overview of Nez Perce history and culture by Alvin M. Josephy, relating the sites presently included in the park to the multiple themes it was established to interpret. Sites such as Buffalo Eddy (WA/ID) and the Traditional Campsite of the Combined Wallowa Bands at the historic fork of the Wallowa and Lostine Rivers (OR) would contribute to the presentation of a balanced portrait of the Nez Perce culture and traditions by the park.

Prelude

Although much has been written about the Nez Perce Indians, to understand the problems and events that culminated in the 1877 Nez Perce war, various components must be brought together and related to the total history of these people. These components are:

- (1) The Nez Perce were not simply one large tribe, but rather a

C A N A D A



1877 Nez Perce Campaign

confederation of bands culturally related to one another living on the plateaus of the tri-state area where Washington, Oregon, and Idaho join or, more specifically, along the Snake, Salmon, and Clearwater Rivers. (2) Contact with trappers and explorers such as Lewis and Clark in 1805-1806, Donald Mackenzie in 1819, Bonneville in 1834, and others had been pleasant, for these men were not interested in the occupation of Nez Perce land but the goals that lay beyond. This contact and the remoteness of their land instilled a lack of concern in the Indians, since they saw no evidence of competition for their grazing and hunting lands. (3) The eastern missionaries—Whitman, Spalding, and others—early preceded the settlers into Nez Perce country; an unusual sequence not often found in the history of our Indian relations. (4) By a treaty in 1855, Governor Isaac Stevens of the Washington Territory agreed to recognize various Indian claims to their lands. This treaty was signed by most of the leaders of the bands of Umatillas, Cayuses, Nez Perce, and Walla Walla, including Chief Joseph the elder of the Wallowa Nez Perce. (5) With an obvious lack of understanding of the Nez Perce social structure, the United States Government signed another treaty in 1863 which specified that all bands of the Nez Perce would join together on the Nez Perce reservation near Lapwai. Chief Joseph the elder did not sign this treaty for it meant leaving his ancestral home in the Wallowa Valley. (6) Although Chief Joseph the elder was baptized a Christian, he later renounced his baptism and followed an anthropomorphic Indian religion known as the “Dreamer” faith, which imbued spirits to the land, trees, and water. This philosophy was embodied in a quote by a Nez Perce leader in referring to the Wallowa Country that “the earth is my mother.” (7) After the gold seekers found nothing, the settlers of the neighboring Grande Ronde Valley sought additional land which was well watered and could offer good grazing and farming. Such an area called the Wallowa existed just to the east of the Grande Ronde and was inhabited by a friendly band of Nez Perce led by Chief Joseph the elder.

An interesting point is the fact that, although Chief Joseph the elder never signed the Treaty of 1863, which gave lands to the Government, the United State Land Office declared the Wallowa public domain and surveyed it in 1866-1867, laying out eleven townships. Thus the stage was set for the decade of mistreatment and misunderstanding that would culminate in the Nez Perce War of 1877. The majority of the Indian combatants in the war were the nontreaty, Dreamer, non-agricultural Indians who received little support from their Christian, treaty, reservation Nez Perce. It is this story, and the locale of the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce,

that is the key missing element in today's Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The Wallowa Episode

Emigrants from the Grande Ronde were moving into the secluded Wallowa Valley during the summer of 1872. Chief Joseph the elder had died the previous summer and his son, the young Chief Joseph, now led the Wallowa band of Nez Perce. According to tradition, the elder chief asked from his deathbed that the younger chief never sell the Wallowa, for "The country holds your father's body. Never sell the bones of your father and mother."

The Indian agent at Lapwai, John Monteith, had been dealing with the older Chief Joseph regarding the Wallowa, but now pressures were building from the settlers in the area who were seeking solutions to their problems. At a meeting in August of 1872, young Chief Joseph stated the Wallowa was never sold or ceded, belonged to his people, and that the settlers must leave. Monteith indicated he felt the valley was open for settlement. An agreement was reached to allow the settlers to remain and Monteith wrote the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that a Wallowa Reservation was desirable. Another meeting on the Wallowa Valley was held at Lapwai on March 27, 1873, attended by Indian Affairs officials who retracted their suggestion of relocation of Chief Joseph's band and encouraged the possibility of their staying in part of the Wallowa. In his report, Monteith recommended that the settlers should remain in the lower valley and Indians should retain the upper valley and lake.

These recommendations were received in Washington and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The General Land Office stopped granting lands and on June 11, 1873, President Ulysses S. Grant issued a proclamation establishing a reservation for the Wallowa band. Unfortunately, the proclamation inverted Monteith's suggestion and set aside exactly the opposite; the settlers were given the upper valley and lake and Chief Joseph's band the lower. Objections were swift. Settlers' associations, newspapers, and the Oregon Congressional delegation lodged protests. Governor Lafayette Grover wrote to the Secretary of the Interior, misstating the case and distorting its history.

With the election of 1874 looming ahead and protests from the State and Congress, the Secretary ordered a restudy. On June 10, 1875, President Grant rescinded his order establishing a reservation

for Joseph's band and opened the Wallowa for settlement. Indian leaders of the nontreaty bands met and, although furious, agreed to live in peace. The die was now cast to force Joseph onto the Lapwai Reservation.

Hostilities were brought into the open on June 23, 1876, when a settler killed a member of the Wallowa band. According to accounts, during an altercation between an Indian and one of three settlers wrestling for possession of a gun, it was accidentally discharged, killing the Indian. Both settlers were exonerated because of reasons of self-defense by a grand jury, but the Indians were not satisfied. Tensions grew on the part of the settlers, men armed themselves, and militia units were formed. Chief Joseph kept control of his band and the tension lessened. By now the government was firm in its decision to move Joseph's band to the Lapwai Reservation and ordered Joseph to move by April 1, 1877. In the meantime, a five-man board was named to settle the dispute. They did not reach a decision by the deadline and Chief Joseph waited, stalling for time, hoping for a solution in his favor. In May, with the deadline gone, Monteith, who was committed to a course of action, asked for military aid to force the Wallowa band into their new home.

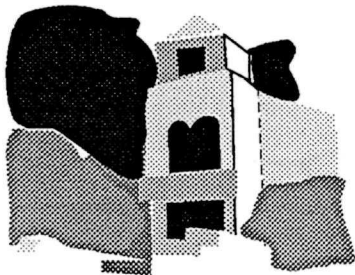
The cattle and horses were gathered and households packed for the move across the Snake River, now swollen by the melting snows in the mountains. In a few days the nontreaty bands would meet the United States Army and the Nez Perce War of 1877 would begin in earnest. The war's origins, however, began in the Wallowa. The Government's inability to solve the Indian problem resulted in bloodshed and heartache.

The battles were over: White Bird, Cottonwood, and Clearwater; the nontreaty Nez Perce were strung out along the Lolo Trail headed away from their homeland as the Army awaited reinforcements at Kamiah. Looking Glass, Joseph, White Bird, Toohoolhoolzote, and Hahtalekin's people trudged eastward towards their destiny. More bullets would crunch and whine their song before the silence and the Indians would remember the horror of Big Hole, their cleverness at Camas Meadows, restraint in Yellowstone Park, the strategy and action along the Yellowstone River against Sturgis, and their final battle and surrender at Bear's Paw with its hunger, cold, and despair.

EPILOGUE

The battles were over; the Nez Perce had lost their 1700-mile dash for freedom and understanding. The weeks following the surrender at Bear Paw on October 5, 1877 were spent transporting the remainder of the nontreaty Nez Perce to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The following spring the war's refugees were shipped to exile in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). For the next seven years the Nez Perce of the high plateau fought to live in the heat and humidity of the Indian Territory. A sympathetic nation returned the Nez Perce to the Northwest in 1885. Some of the Indians joined their relatives on the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho, while Joseph and the other leaders were exiled to the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington. Nineteen years later, in his 64th year, Joseph died, but the appreciation of the dignity, honor, bravery and perseverance of himself and his people continues. The Wallowa band's trek is over, the old hatreds tempered, the lessons learned, and the events an indelible epic of our American history.

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Nez Perce National Historical Park is today composed of 24 sites scattered over 12,000 square miles in the counties of Nez Perce, Idaho, Lewis, and Clearwater in north-central Idaho. The National Park Service manages four of these sites: White Bird Battlefield, Spalding, East Kamiah, and Canoe Camp. The other sites are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Nez Perce Tribe, the State of Idaho, or are privately-owned.

Each of the 24 sites is related to one of the themes identified in the authorizing legislation (See Appendix A). The National Park Service works with the other agencies and private owners through cooperative agreements to interpret these sites and, through them, the story of the Nez Perce Indians, their country, and their contact with the settlers who came to Idaho.

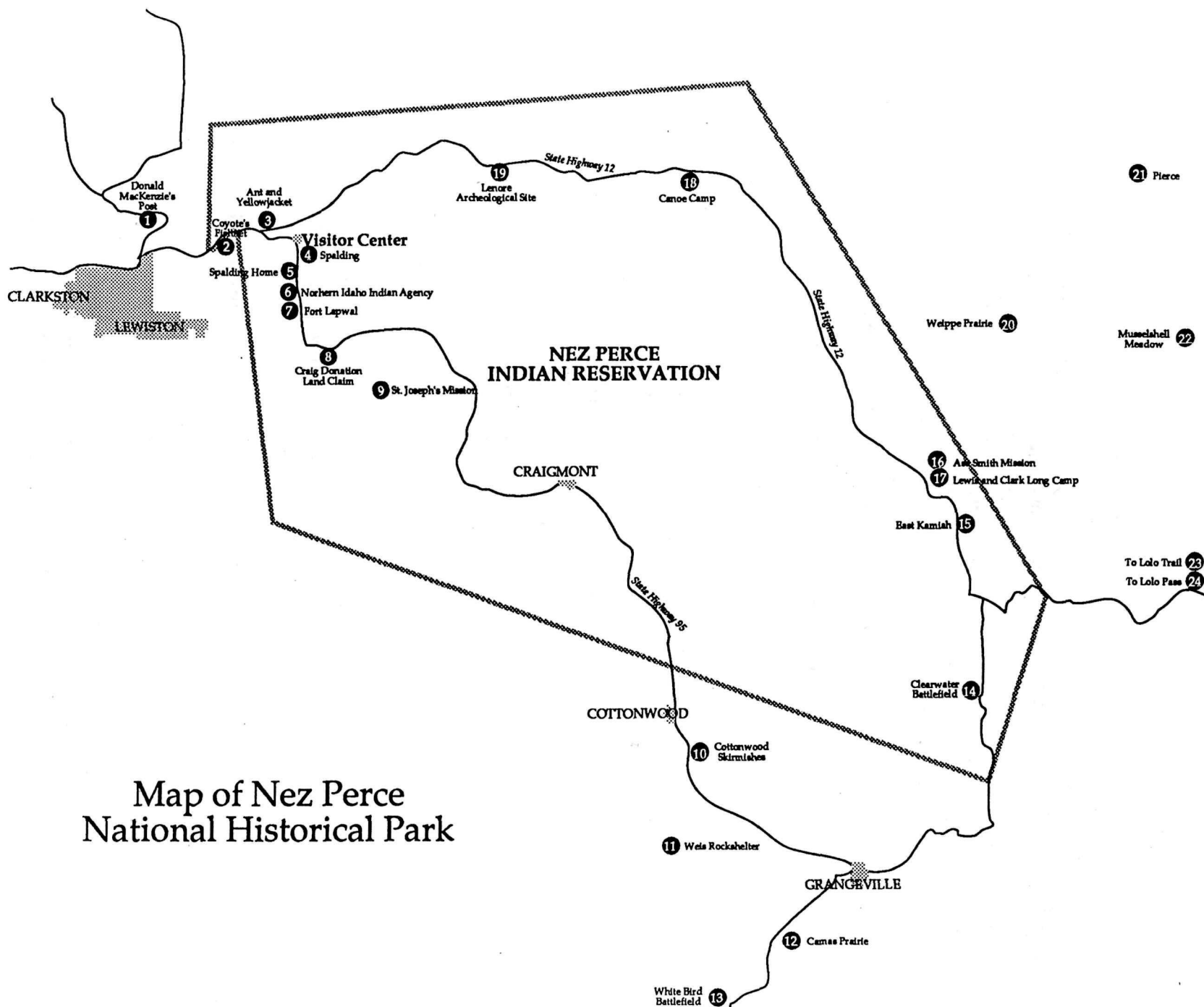
All of these sites are connected by an auto tour, which is outlined in park brochures and the park handbook available to visitors, and is reproduced in this report on page 20. Spalding is the park headquarters and the location of the visitor center. The visitor center provides orientation to the entire park's resources and houses a museum of Nez Perce culture. Additional unmanned interpretive shelters are located at White Bird Battlefield and East Kamiah, providing information on the events and significance of each place. Other sites are identified through a variety of highway markers and waysides, many of which were erected and are maintained by the Idaho Transportation Department.

A brief description of each of the 24 sites that presently constitute Nez Perce National Historical Park follows; the number assigned to each site is keyed to the map on page 20.

1. Donald Mackenzie's Pacific Fur Company Trading Post

State Site. Interpretive road sign located on the south side of U.S. 95 about one-third the way down Lewiston Hill.

Somewhere on the north shore of the Clearwater River—the exact site is unknown—Donald MacKenzie established a trading post in August 1812. The post was part of John Jacob Astor's plan to counter the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company. The effort, however, failed and MacKenzie sold out to the British.



2. Coyote's Fishnet

State site. Historical marker located on U.S. 12 and 95 east of Lewiston along the Clearwater.

Nez Perce tradition abounds with tales of the exploits of Coyote. Once he was fishing with a large net in the Clearwater. Black Bear happened to come by and angered Coyote, who stalked out of the water, hurled his fishnet up on the hill to the south side, and flung Black Bear far up the hill on the north side, turning him into stone. Both are still visible.

3. Ant and Yellow Jacket

State Site. Historical marker located on the south side of U.S. 12 just east of where U.S. 95 and 12 join.

This legend also deals with Coyote, who tried to settle an argument between Ant and Yellow Jacket. They paid no attention to Coyote, so he turned them to stone just as their backs were arched with their jaws locked in combat.

4. Spalding

NPS Site. Off of U.S. 95, 11 miles east of Lewiston.

Here, at the confluence of Lapwai Creek with the Clearwater River, prehistoric Indian communities resided for more than 10,000 years. In 1838 Henry and Eliza Spalding moved their Presbyterian mission to this site. The Bureau of Indian Affairs established the Nez Perce Agency at this location in 1861; it remained here until 1902 when it was moved south to its present location on the site of Fort Lapwai. A small town, first known as Lapwai and later named Spalding in 1897, grew up around the agency. Historic remnants from all of these eras remain at the Spalding site. The park visitor center and the museum of traditional Nez Perce culture are also located at Spalding.

5. Spalding Home

State site. Historical marker located on the east side of U.S. 95 two miles south of Spalding.

Henry and Eliza Spalding first settled in this general area when they arrived in Nez Perce Country in November 1836.

6. Northern Idaho Indian Agency

Site jointly administered by NPS, BIA, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Located 3.4 miles south of Spalding off of U.S. 95.

As part of treaty agreements, the U.S. Government set up an agency to handle the Indians' affairs. Originally located at Spalding, the agency was relocated in 1904 to the site of Fort Lapwai.

7. Fort Lapwai

Site jointly administered by NPS, BIA, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Located 3.4 miles south of Spalding off of U.S. 95.

In the fall of 1862, a detachment of volunteers arrived in the Lapwai valley, south of Spalding's mission, and chose a location for their fort. The duplex officers' quarters at the southwest end of the parade ground was built in 1883.

8. Craig Donation Claim

State Site. Highway marker located on the south side of U.S. 95. The claim is on private property.

This is the site of the first claim by a white settler in Idaho. William Craig was a mountain man, and an interpreter and friend of the Nez Perces.

9. St. Joseph's Mission

Privately-owned. Located on a side road approximately 4 miles from U.S. 95. Interpreted through a cooperative agreement with the owners.

This was the first Roman Catholic mission among the Nez Perce. It was dedicated on September 8, 1874, by Father Joseph Cataldo.

10. The Cottonwood Skirmishes

State Site. Highway marker on the east side of U.S. 95.

After skirmishes with the U.S. Army and volunteers here on July 3 and 5, 1877, the main body of the Nez Perces fled east into the valley of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater.

11. Weis Rockshelter

State Site. Located on Graves Creek Road, a partially unpaved access road, 7 miles off of U.S. 95.

More than 8,000 years ago man first made this home. The locale was continuously inhabited until about 600 years ago, when these ancestors of the Nez Perces probably moved to the mouth of Rocky Canyon, a short distance away.

12. Camas Prairie

State site. Interpretive sign on north side of U.S. 95 south of Grangeville.

Here, where wheat fields today stretch to the horizon, camas lilies once grew in great profusion. Camas bulbs were a major food source for the Nez Perces and they came here in late spring and early summer to dig them. It was from a camp near Tolo Lake, which can be seen in the distance to the northwest, that three young Nez Perces rode off on a raid that was the immediate prelude to the 1877 war.

13. White Bird Battlefield

NPS site. Battlefield located between the old and new routes of U.S. 95 in White Bird Canyon.

On June 17, 1877, the first battle of the Nez Perce War was fought here. Thirty-four soldiers were killed, while the Nez Perces lost none.

14. Clearwater Battlefield

State site. Highway marker located on the west side of Route 13.

On July 11, Gen. O. O. Howard crossed the Clearwater and hoped to take the Nez Perces by surprise. His hopes came to naught, and the fighting ended with the Nez Perces withdrawing.

15. East Kamiah

NPS site. Entrance off of the west side of U.S. 12.

Heart of the Monster, the place of creation in Nez Perce mythology.

16. Asa Smith Mission

State site. Highway marker on east side of U.S. 12 north of Kamiah.

In April 1839 Rev. and Mrs. Asa Smith established a mission in the Kamiah area. Unsited to the demands of such work, the Smiths left in 1841.

17. Lewis and Clark Long Camp

State site. Highway marker adjacent to "Asa Smith Mission" marker on the east side of U.S. 12 north of Kamiah; campsite is on the opposite of the river.

Here Lewis and Clark camped in the spring of 1806 while they waited for the snow in the mountain passes to melt.

18. Canoe Camp

NPS site. Interpretive site on north side of U.S. 12. The Camp's actual location is on the north side of the Clearwater at its junction with the North Fork of the Clearwater.

At this site Lewis and Clark rested and built canoes of hollowed-out logs for the final leg of their trip to the Pacific.

19. Lenore

State Site. Archeological and interpretive site with picnic facilities on north side of U.S.12.

For perhaps 10,000 years this site was inhabited by Nez Perces and their ancestors.

20. Weippe Prairie

State site and registered National Historic Landmark. Marker located on the south side of Idaho Route 11.

This was a favorite gathering place for the Nez Perces. It was here on September 20, 1805, that Lewis and Clark first met the Nez Perces. During the 1877 War the Nez Perces came here after the Battle of the Clearwater and held a council to decide what to do.

21. Pierce

State site. Canal Gulch site on Main Street; Courthouse one block east of Main Street.

One site here marks the spot, at the north end of town, of the first gold strike by W.F. Bassett in September 1860. The other site of interest is the old Shoshone County courthouse, one block east of Main Street, completed in 1862.

22. Musselshell Meadows

U.S. Forest Service site. Meadow 10 miles east of Weippe.

For many generations Nez Perces have come here in the late spring to dig the bulb of the camas lily, a major food source.

23/24. Lolo Trail and Lolo Pass

U.S. Forest Service site. Clearwater National Forest.

This historic Nez Perce trail was used by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and 1806. It extends roughly from near Weippe to Lolo Pass. In many places the exact route is unknown. U.S. 12 closely parallels the route. During the 1877 War the Nez Perces followed the trail to Lolo Pass and on into Montana. The U.S. Forest Service maintains a seasonal visitor center at Lolo Pass and the Lochsa Ranger Station on U.S. 12 east.

SITES EVALUATED Introduction



1969 Study: The seven sites listed below were visited and evaluated for the 1969 NPS "Additions" Study.

Sites in Wallowa County, Oregon

1. Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite, Wallowa Lake
2. Homesite of the first American Settler - William McCormick's Homesite (presumably first patented homestead claim in the Wallowa Valley)
3. Site of Chief Joseph's initial encounter with settlers.
4. Joseph Canyon Viewpoint on State Highway 3.

Site in Asotin County, Washington

5. Cave Site on Joseph Creek (reputed birth place of Chief Joseph the younger)

Sites near Nespelem, Washington (Colville Indian Reservation)

6. Last campsite of Chief Joseph the younger (hereafter included in "Nez Perce Campsites")
7. Gravesite of Chief Joseph the younger (hereafter referred to as "Burial Site of Chief Joseph the younger")

The 1969 Study found that Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite and the Joseph Canyon Viewpoint had both national significance and integrity. The sites qualified for addition to the Nez Perce National Historical Park, providing the enabling legislation was amended to allow this action. The 1969 report also recommended further study of the two sites near Nespelem. These four sites were revisited by the 1987 task force and are evaluated in this report. The other sites visited in 1969 (#2, 3, and 5) were not considered for addition to the park for reasons documented in the 1969 report, including questions concerning their location, integrity, and significance.

Several other areas were considered in the 1969 report, although they were not visited in the field. These areas include:

Fort Fizzle, Montana;
Big Hole National Battlefield, Montana;
Camas Meadows Battlefield, Idaho;
the Nez Perce retreat trail through Yellowstone National Park;
and the Bear's Paw Battlefield near Havre, Montana.

However, the 1969 report concluded that the Nez Perce National Historical Park must have a physical cut-off point. The Bitterroot Mountains, which form the eastern edge of the traditional Nez Perce territory and present a physical barrier, were designated as that cut-off. Thus, although it recognized the significance of these sites, the 1969 report did not recommend adding them to the park.

1987 Study: The 1987 task force considered the sites listed below as potential additions to Nez Perce National Historical Park. Six of these sites were visited by the task force in July 1987. Additional sites have been visited within the past two years by at least one of the task force members. Information on several sites was also provided to the task force by the 1987-88 National Historic Landmark (NHL) study of areas related to the 1877 Nez Perce War.

Idaho

1. Tolo Lake
2. Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite on Clear Creek
3. Ahsahka Village Archeological Site on the Clearwater River
4. Buffalo Eddy (petroglyph sites on both banks of the Snake River below Lewiston)
5. Camas Meadows Battle Sites²
6. Hasotino Village Archeological Site on the Snake River

Oregon (Wallowa County)

7. Dug Bar
8. Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite and Cemetery (Old Chief Joseph's Monument)² at Wallowa Lake¹
9. Joseph Canyon Viewpoint on State Highway 3¹
10. Traditional Wallowa Band Campsite, historic junction of the Lostine and Wallowa rivers.¹

Washington

11. Swallows Nest Rock¹ (Clarkston, WA.)
12. Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger¹ (Colville Indian Reservation)
13. Nez Perce Campsites¹ (Colville Indian Reservation)

Montana

14. Nez Perce Retreat Trail through Yellowstone National Park
15. Big Hole National Battlefield
16. Canyon Creek
17. Bear's Paw Battleground State Monument²

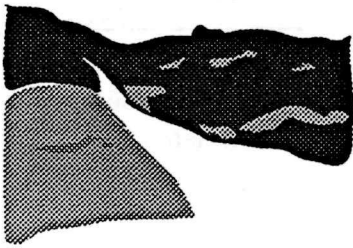
¹ site visited by task force in July 1987

² site nominated for NHL designation

Six of these sites were considered in the 1969 Study: Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite, Joseph Canyon Viewpoint, Burial site of Chief Joseph the Younger, Big Hole National Battlefield, Camas Meadows Battle Sites, and Bear's Paw Battlefield. Three of the sites visited in 1969—Homesite of the first American settler, Site of Chief Joseph's initial encounter with settlers, and Cavesite on Joseph Creek—were not revisited in 1987 because the task force concluded that the 1969 study had clearly established the integrity problems of these sites. Another site visited in 1969, the last campsite of Chief Joseph the Younger, was not revisited in 1987; the representative of the Nez Perce living on the Colville Reservation chose to take the team to another site, the winter campsite along the Columbia River. Information on the eastern Idaho and Montana sites was gleaned from the 1969 report, individual task force members' knowledge of the sites, and the 1987-88 NHL theme study of the 1877 Nez Perce Campaign. Fort Fizzle, originally reviewed in 1969, was not included in the 1987 study because of integrity problems identified in 1969.

Detailed information on each of these seventeen sites is provided in the following pages. It should be noted that boundaries for the sites are not described. It was the task force's opinion that establishing boundaries was not critical to the assessment because hands-on NPS management of these sites was not being proposed. As needed, the boundaries should be coincident with those established for National Register or National Historic Landmark documentation, or they could be established through subsequent negotiations with the site managers in accordance with the park's legislation. The list of sites considered suitable for inclusion in the park as cooperative units may be found in the Summary at the end of this report.

SITE EVALUATIONS



Information for each of the seventeen sites was gathered from a combination of written records, recent studies of the Nez Perce culture and the 1877 Nez Perce War, and field visits. Descriptions of each site considered by the 1987 task force begin on page 30. Each of the evaluations include a statement on the sites "suitability/feasibility" for inclusion in, or association with, Nez Perce National Historical Park that addresses the criteria established in Chapter 2 of the National Park Service's "Management Policies" (1988). That is, they were evaluated for their significance and integrity in relation to the themes established for the park. The task force did not address alternative management strategies for these areas because the legislation establishing the park provides significant latitude to the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate cooperative agreements with site owners and it was felt that this flexibility should be preserved. A map depicting these sites is found on page 31.

Oregon

- Joseph Canyon Viewpoint (page 30)
- Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite (page 32)
- Traditional Wallowa Band Campsite at the Historic Junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers (page 34)
- Dug Bar (38)

Idaho

- Ahsahka Village Site (page 35)
- Hasotino Village Site (page 36)
- Buffalo Eddy (page 37)
- Tolo Lake (page 39)
- Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite (page 40)
- Camas Meadows Battle Sites (page 41)

Montana

- Big Hole National Battlefield (page 43)
- Canyon Creek (page 44)
- Bear's Paw Battleground (page 45)

Washington

- Swallows Nest Rock (page 46)
- Burial Site of Chief Joseph the younger (page 47)
- Nez Perce Camp Sites (page 49)

Montana/Wyoming

- Nez Perce Retreat Trail through Yellowstone National Park (page 50)

Site Evaluation—Oregon

Joseph Canyon Viewpoint

Location: The Joseph Canyon Viewpoint on Oregon State Route 3, approximately 11 miles south of the Washington-Oregon boundary, is within the Minan Division of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Ownership: U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

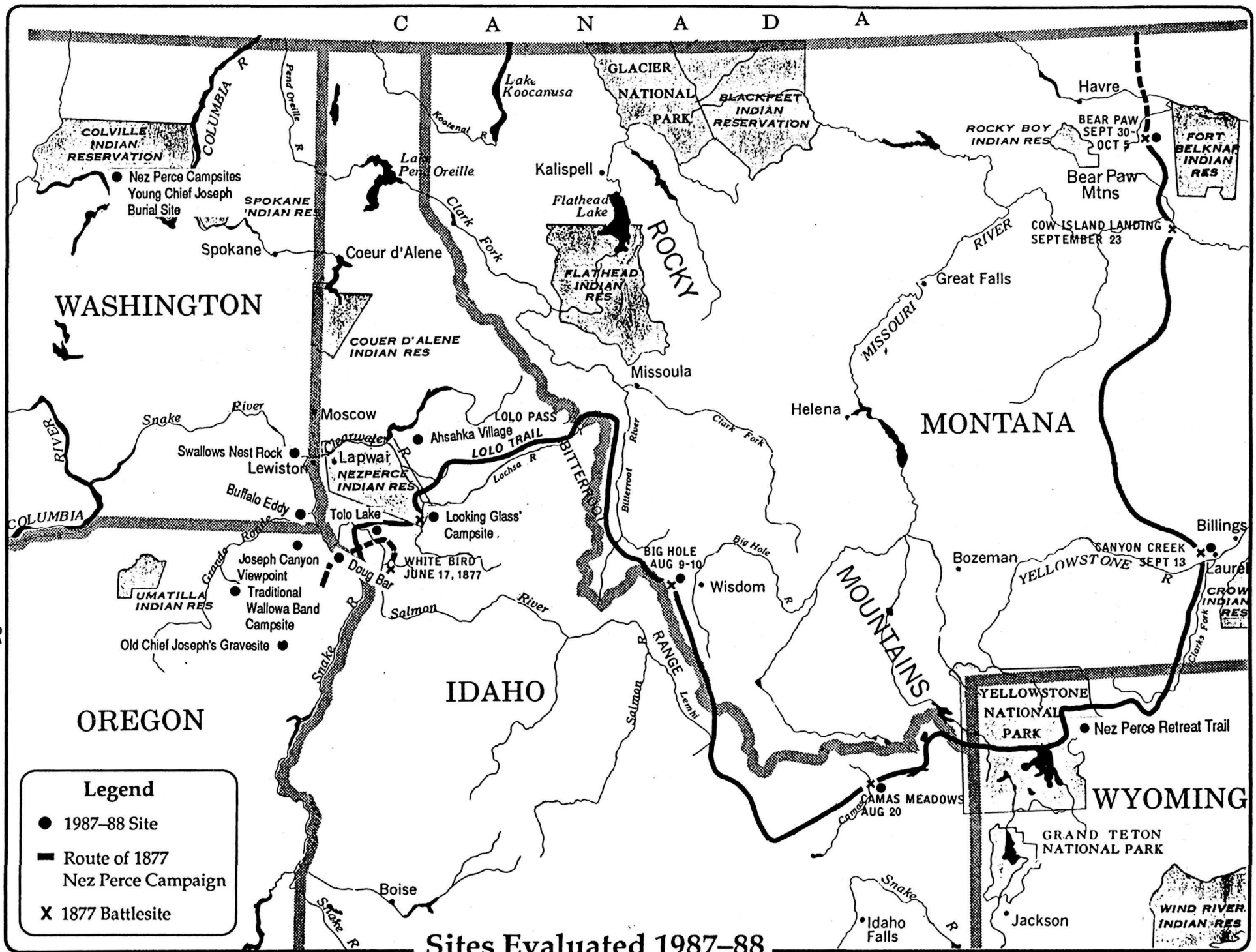
Historical Narrative: This site is important because of the view it presents of the traditional wintering grounds of the Wallowa Nez Perce in and around Joseph Canyon.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Not eligible.

Condition: The overlook is an adequately maintained pull-off with limited picnic and rest facilities; wayside exhibits show signs of vandalism. The view of Joseph Canyon and the Seven Devils Mountains is spectacular and largely unimpaired, although there are several noticeable clear cuts in the far distance.

Interpretive Theme: This viewpoint provides a valuable opportunity for interpreting the seasonal migrations of the Nez Perce and the use of native grasses, roots, and berries for food for both the people and their horses. There is also the traditional specific association with Young Chief Joseph, who is believed to have been born in a cave along the lower east bank of Joseph Creek.

Suitability/Feasibility: Although the overlook itself is not eligible for the National Register, it provides an outstanding opportunity to expand and enhance interpretation of prehistoric Nez Perce culture and, specifically, the Wallowa Nez Perce band. As such, the overlook would function in a manner similar to some of the existing State sites in Idaho (for example, Camas Prairie), which are designated by highway waysides that interpret the significance of the surrounding area. If the legislation is amended to permit inclusion of Oregon sites, this site could be added to the park through a cooperative agreement with the USFS that provided a framework for further development of the site and protection of the viewshed. Development could take the form of new wayside exhibits discussing the Nez Perce lifestyle, their seasonal migrations and uses of the area's resources, and the final trip of the Joseph band through the canyon in 1877.



Sites Evaluated 1987-88

Site Description—Oregon

Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite (Old Chief Joseph Monument)

Location: Approximately one mile south of Joseph, Oregon, on State Route 82, the site is a few hundred yards north of Wallowa Lake and immediately to the west of the state highway overlooking the lake.

Ownership: The gravesite is held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes. Land between the gravesite and lake is owned by the Associated Ditch Co. Acreage to the north and northwest is privately-owned.

Historical Narrative: This is the grave of Chief Joseph the elder, who died in August 1871 at his camp at the historic juncture of the Wallowa and Lostine Rivers. Chief Joseph was first buried near the campsite where he died. This land passed into the homestead of the McAlexander family in 1876. Subsequently, the grave was opened and the skull was removed; the present whereabouts of the skull is unknown. In 1926 Mr. J. H. Horner, historian of the Wallowa and resident of Joseph, Oregon, moved the remains of Old Joseph to a new grave at the foot of Wallowa Lake with the permission of the Nez Perce tribe.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Designated a NHL under the "Nez Perce 1877 Campaign" theme (1989) as "Old Chief Joseph Monument." This is also the beginning of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.

Condition: The appearance of the cemetery is little changed from the time of its evaluation in 1969. The road from Joseph runs directly past the cemetery's stone walls. Inside the cemetery is a stone masonry monument marking Chief Joseph's Grave. To the southwest are the graves of the McCully family who were considered friends of Chief Joseph. The cemetery is maintained by the local chapter of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs. Immediately surrounding the graves is a small, well-kept park-like area; this melds into more natural scrub vegetation to the north, northwest and south to the lake. The view southeast from the cemetery is dominated by a huge lateral glacial moraine and Wallowa Lake, both formed by glaciation. The moraine, which rises about 500 feet and is more than four miles in length, has been determined eligible for National Natural Landmark status. The only man-made structures visible from the gravesite area are a small, motel structure across Highway 82 to the east and the Associated Ditch

Company's headgate works near the Wallowa Lake outlet to the Wallowa River. However, development is moving inexorably toward the cemetery. Use of the lake for recreation intensifies with each passing year. More immediate is the threat posed by a 1989 proposal to the Wallowa County Planning Commission to subdivide the 68-acre parcel adjacent to the monument.

Interpretive Theme: This is a key site for interpreting the lifestyle and culture of the Wallowa Nez Perce, their close ties with the Umatilla and Cayuse tribes, and the events that led to their expulsion from the Wallowa Valley and, ultimately, the Nez Perce War of 1877. The adjacent property is believed to be the site of numerous prehistoric graves. The graves of the McCullys provide a reference point for presenting the settlers' stories and perspectives as well.

Suitability/Feasibility: This site could be incorporated into the park as a cooperative site, managed by the National Park Service with ownership retained by the Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes. It could serve as the focal point for interpreting the Wallowa Nez Perce and as the "west entrance" to Nez Perce country and the park. To maintain the visual integrity of the site at current levels, agreements could be negotiated with adjacent landholders to acquire scenic easements. In addition, acquisition of the adjacent tract (approx. 60-acres, locally known as the "Marr property"), currently being proposed for subdivision, would protect the prehistoric burials, provide a buffer from encroaching development, and serve as the location for a modest visitor contact station, exhibits, a maintenance facility, and parking. Addition of the site to the park can only be accomplished through amendment of the existing park legislation (1) to eliminate the current restriction limiting the park to sites in Idaho and (2) to raise the existing ceilings on land acquisition and development expenditures.

Site Evaluation—Oregon

Traditional Campsite at the Historic Junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers (Old Chief Joseph's Last Campsite and Burial Place)

Location: Approximately three-quarters of a mile from the present junction of the Wallowa and Lostine rivers, which is just off of Route 82, approximately twelve miles northwest of Enterprise, Oregon.

Ownership: Private

Historical Narrative: This is a traditional seasonal campsite of the Wallowa Nez Perce. It was here that Old Chief Joseph died in 1871, after, according to tradition, extracting a promise from his son and successor, soon to be known as Young Chief Joseph, "Never sell the bones of your father and your mother."

National Register/National Landmark status: Needs a determination of eligibility.

Condition: It appears that the site has only undergone the minimal modifications necessary to use it for cattle ranching—some fencing, telephone lines, and a few buildings in the far distance. From the road, open vistas across the river bottomlands to the foothills of the Blue Mountains remain largely unimpaired.

Interpretive Theme: This is an outstanding site from which the visitor can get a sense of the pre-white lifestyle of the Nez Perce bands. Standing on the road looking across the fields to the river's present junction, one can easily envision the teepees lining the banks and the horse herds that once fed on these lush grasslands.

Suitability/Feasibility: A small interpretive roadside pull-out located in close proximity to the historic junction of the two rivers would provide a forum for interpreting this site. A small parcel of land (less than one acre) would need to be acquired to accommodate the pull-out. The site could be serviced from the Wallowa Lake facility. A cooperative agreement with, or purchase of a site for the wayside from the present owner; and amendment of the existing park legislation, removing the current restriction to sites within Idaho and raising the ceiling for land acquisition and development expenditures, would be required to add this site to the park.

Site Description–Idaho

Ahsahka Village Site

Location: North bank of the north fork of the Clearwater River in north central Idaho at the Dworshak Dam. Site now occupied by the McFarland Boat Yard.

Ownership: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Historical Narrative: This is a prehistoric/historic Nez Perce village site on which extensive archeological testing has indicated nine distinct levels of occupation.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, 1987.

Condition: A boat ramp for recreational use is being constructed by the Corps. The ramp is on/adjacent to the village site. Preservation of the site may be impacted by recreational use and further facility development.

Interpretive Theme: This is a significant site in terms of its potential for providing information on prehistoric Nez Perce culture (National Register Criteria D).

Suitability/Feasibility: This site is not suitable for inclusion in the park because the recreational use of the site will make it inaccessible for interpretive purposes. However, it is recommended that interpretation of the site take place via wayside exhibits about it and other Nez Perce villages along the Clearwater. The exhibits could be located at Canoe Camp, an established NPS-owned and maintained site, which is across the river, approximately a mile southwest of the Ahsakha Village site.

Site Evaluation–Idaho

Hasotino Village Site

Location: The Hasotino site is located on a floodplain bar on the east side of the Snake River five miles south of Lewiston, Idaho.

Ownership: U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District. The site is incorporated into Hell's Gate State Park.

Historical Narrative: This site corresponds to the Nez Perce winter village Hasotino, named after "the great eel fishery" at the mouth of Asotin Creek. It was one of the largest and most important villages along the Snake River and was occupied until the end of the 19th century.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Listed on the National Register, 1976.

Condition: The original appearance of the site was very similar to its present appearance except for a few fences. Cultivation has obscured many of the housepit depressions but not destroyed the value of the archeological site. Archeological testing indicates a considerable density and depth of cultural fill in this area with a significant potential for yielding information on prehistoric Nez Perce lifeways. It is protected as part of Hell's Gate State Park.

Interpretive Theme: The Hasotino site provides an excellent opportunity for expanding the park's interpretation of prehistoric and historic Nez Perce culture. Activities performed on the site during historic times are known to have been complex and the site holds enormous potential for explaining patterns of subsistence and settlement in the area.

Suitability/Feasibility: This site could be added to the park through a cooperative agreement with Idaho State Parks and the Corps of Engineers. It would significantly expand the park's interpretation of Nez Perce culture. Addition to the park could be accomplished under the existing legislation.

Site Description–Idaho Buffalo Eddy

Location: Petroglyph features found on both sides of the Snake River above Lewiston, Idaho. The most abundant are located on a cluster of rocks along the east side of the river. They begin about 10 feet above water level within the river channel and from there are found inland to the east approximately 200 yards. The features on the west (Washington) side have been subjected to repeated vandalism; those remaining are located along the road and between the road and the river bench.

Ownership: Idaho side: private.
Washington side: Asotin County, WA.

Historical Narrative: These are densely-grouped clusters of petroglyphs containing hundreds of distinct inscriptions associated with prehistoric Nez Perce culture.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Listed in the National Register as part of the Nez Perce Archeological District.

Condition: While some of the sites on the Washington side have been destroyed by vandalism, hundreds remain in good to excellent condition on both sides of the river. The upstream dams on the Snake River have moderated the impact of once-violent currents at Buffalo Eddy during flood stage. A county road provides reasonable access to the Washington sites; those on the Idaho side are on private land and accessible primarily from the river.

Interpretive Theme: There is agreement among tribal members contacted, the Idaho State Archeologist, and federal archeologists and resource managers with both NPS and USFS that this is an important site in terms of the quality and quantity of the petroglyphs. Their interpretation would provide additional depth to the park's discussion of prehistoric Nez Perce culture. A discussion of the need to protect such sites could also be featured.

Suitability/Feasibility: Addition of the petroglyphs on both sides of the river to Nez Perce NHP through purchase or donation from the present owners would be appropriate. Inclusion of the petroglyphs would significantly add to the park's resources for the interpretation of prehistoric Nez Perce culture and enhance the preservation of these valuable sites. The Idaho site could be added to the park through purchase or donation, or through a cooperative agreement with the present owner, under the existing legislation. Inclusion of the Washington site would only follow amendment of the existing legislation to eliminate the restriction currently limiting the park to the State of Idaho.

Site Evaluation—Oregon

Dug Bar

Location: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, along section of the designated National Recreation Trail running between Imnaha River and the Snake River.

Ownership: U. S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Historical Narrative: This is the site identified by scholars as the probable crossing point for Joseph's Band in 1877 as they were being forced onto the reservation at Lapwai. It was a traditional Nez Perce seasonal migration crossing of the Snake River.

National Register/National Landmark status: Needs a determination of eligibility. Site on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Condition: Visible seasonally; subject to the forces of current and erosion.

Interpretive Theme: An important feature of the seasonal migration routes of the Nez Perce, it would also be a focal point for interpretation of the events that led up to the outbreak of the 1877 war.

Suitability/Feasibility: This site could be interpreted by the park. However, because of its seasonal nature and relative inaccessibility, it would be most feasible to interpret it through a wayside panel located under a cooperative agreement within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

Site Evaluations—Idaho

Tolo Lake

Location: six miles (10 kilometers) west of Gangeville, Idaho, and east of Rocky Canyon, accessible by unpaved section roads off of U.S. Route 95 from both the north and the south.

Ownership: State of Idaho.

Historical Narrative: It was at Tepahlewam (Split Rocks), the ancient counciling site at the camas meadows beside Tolo Lake, that most of the non-treaty bands rendezvoused on June 2, 1877, twelve days before they had to move onto the reservation under General Howard's ultimatum. Amidst mounting anger and resentment, three young men left the encampment on June 12 to avenge the death of one of their fathers and ended up killing four white men and wounding another. The anger on both sides that this act unleashed began a chain of events that culminated in the battle of White Bird Canyon five days later on June 17. U.S. troops and local volunteers fleeing the battle at White Bird passed through this area on their way to Grangeville and Mt. Idaho.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Not nominated at this time; the State Historic Preservation Office believes it to be eligible because of its relationship to the beginning of the Nez Perce war. Site on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Condition: Although wheat fields have replaced the camas meadows, Tolo Lake and its vicinity remain otherwise largely unencumbered by development. The sweeping perspectives across the high prairies retain a clear sense of the historic and prehistoric landscape.

Interpretive Theme: This site is important in interpreting the sequence of events that finally led to the outbreak of the Nez Perce War of 1877. It is also significant as a traditional counciling site to the interpretation of Nez Perce culture.

Suitability/Feasibility: Under the current legislation Tolo Lake could be added to the park as a cooperative site provided an agreement could be reached with the State of Idaho. If funding were available, scenic easements could also be acquired to protect the vistas that surround the site.

Site Evaluation–Idaho

Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite

Location: On the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River in north central Idaho, just above its confluence with the South Fork of the Clearwater, at the point where Clear Creek enters the Middle Fork of the Clearwater.

Ownership: National Fish Hatchery, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Historical Narrative: The Looking Glass band was camped at this root-gathering site when word reached them of the trouble at Tolo Lake. Although Looking Glass had opposed the 1863 reduction of the reservation and was thus considered to be a malcontent, he had sought to avoid confrontation with General Howard over the movement of the non-treaty bands onto the reservation. General Howard, however, after the battle of White Bird, mistrusted Looking Glass' neutrality and on July 1 his troops attacked the band at this site. The Indians were routed, the camp was pillaged, and hundreds of horses were captured. Infuriated by this treachery, Looking Glass joined the warring bands.

National Register/National Landmark status:
A determination of eligibility is needed.

Condition: The site is presently the location of a small fish hatchery. Otherwise, it is essentially the same as when Looking Glass camped there.

Interpretive Theme: This site is important in explaining the escalating events that prevented a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the non-treaty Nez Perce and General Howard. Howard's unwillingness to discriminate between resisting and neutral bands, as demonstrated by this unprovoked attack on the Looking Glass band, strengthened the Indians' resolve and ability to resist. As a root-gathering camp, it also provides information on Nez Perce culture.

Suitability/Feasibility: This site could become a cooperative site of the Nez Perce National Historical Park. The hatchery manager has indicated a willingness to work with NPS to establish an interpretive wayside exhibit area. Execution of a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would establish the site as a cooperative unit of the park under the existing legislation.

Site Evaluation–Idaho

Camas Meadows Battle Sites

Location: General Howard's camp: SE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 20, T12N R39E (described in 1969 study as 6 miles SW of Sheridan Reservoir off of a gravel road between Mack's Inn and Kilgore).

Siege Site: W 1/2 NE 1/4 and E 1/2 NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, Section 31, T13N, R40E.

Ownership: General Howard's camp: private.

Siege site: State of Idaho

Historical Narrative: On August 19, as he pursued the Nez Perce to try to intercept them before they crossed the Continental Divide at Targhee Pass, General Howard camped in the Camas Meadows west of present-day Island Park Reservoir. Before dawn the next day a group of Nez Perce, attempting to cripple his operations, rounded up 200 of his mules and some horses and left for their camp. Pursued by three companies of Howard's men, including a calvary detachment from Fort Ellis under Capt. Randolph Norwood, the Nez Perce took up a position on a natural lava ridge to hold back the troops. In the ensuing skirmish Norwood's company was forced to take refuge and hold off the warriors for four hours in rock-protected rifle-pits until the main body of men arrived with Howard. As Howard approached, the Indians broke off the fight and returned to camp. No Indians were killed; Howard lost three men and the opportunity to keep the Nez Perce from crossing Targhee Pass.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Designated a National Historic Landmark under the "Nez Perce 1877 Campaign" theme, 1989.

Condition: Howard's site remains largely unchanged with the exception that farms have replaced the camas meadows. The gravesite of the bugler killed during the battle is still marked at Howard's campsite. The rifle-pits and environs of the siege site are virtually unaltered.

Interpretive Theme: As noted in the National Landmark evaluation, this was an important turning point in the campaign as Howard lost the considerable momentum he had gained after Big Hole and failed to block the Nez Percés' escape across the Targhee Pass. Instead of ending the campaign with a successful blockade of their escape, Howard would be forced to pursue the Nez Perce for another six weeks.

Suitability/Feasibility: The sites are off mainly travelled routes and difficult to find. This difficulty has helped to preserve their integrity. However, these are important sites and the possibility of a cooperative agreement with the private landowner and/or the State of Idaho for the interpretation of these sites may be explored further. Interpretation could be low-key, in the form of interpretive waysides similar to those used at Weis Rockshelter or Wieppe Prairie, and a revised park brochure providing additional information on the site.

Site Evaluation—Montana

Big Hole National Battlefield

Location: State Route 43 approximately 16 miles east of the junction with U.S. 93 and 10 miles west of Wisdom, Montana.

Ownership: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Historical Narrative: The Nez Perce were camping and resting at this site on the North Fork of the Big Hole River, after making their way over Lolo Pass, around Fort Fizzle, and south through the Bitterroot Valley. On August 8, an Army patrol located the camp and before dawn the next morning Army troops under Col. John Gibbon attacked and overran the camp. Recovering from the shock of this unexpected attack, the Nez Perce caught the Army in a wicked crossfire that drove the Army troops away from the campsite and allowed the Nez Perce to bury their dead, help the wounded, and break camp. Losses were heavy on both sides: 89 Nez Perce were killed, many of whom were women and children; 29 soldiers were killed and 40 wounded.

National Register/National Landmark Status: National Battlefield listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a nationally significant unit of the National Park System. Site on Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Condition: The battlefield is administered and maintained by NPS and retains a visual sense of the historic scene.

Interpretive Theme: This is a key site in understanding the progression of the Nez Perce War. This battle convinced the Nez Perce that they could not expect to be left alone by the Army. Their retreat from Idaho would ultimately become a march toward the Canadian border and refuge.

Suitability/Feasibility: This site is currently administered as a unit of the National Park System reporting to Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS. The task force believes that a closer affiliation with Nez Perce NHP should be established. This could be accomplished through a cooperative agreement between the two areas that would establish annual meetings between the staffs of these areas to facilitate a closer working relationship and cooperative planning for the comprehensive interpretation of the Nez Perce culture and the 1877 campaign and their impact on the development of the West. Initial interim steps toward closer cooperation could include development of joint brochures and providing an exhibit at Big Hole about Nez Perce NHP.

Site Evaluation–Montana Canyon Creek

Location: 8 miles north of Laurel, Montana.

Ownership: Private/Public.

Historical Narrative: The Nez Perce, after emerging from Yellowstone National Park, headed north toward the Canadian border. Just north of the Yellowstone River, they fought a series of successful rear guard actions that significantly impeded the progress of the pursuing troops.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Although the State Historic Preservation Office has indicated that the site is eligible for the National Register, no boundaries have been agreed upon. Site on Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Condition: None of the sites are presently marked. A Montana State Highway proceeds through the area of the battles.

Interpretive Theme: Together these sites present further testimony to the skill and ingenuity with which the Nez Perce outmaneuvered the Army during the 1877 campaign.

Suitability/Feasibility: These sites could be marked through a series of highway wayside exhibits erected and maintained under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service (through Big Hole National Battlefield) and the State of Montana.

Site Description–Montana

Bear's Paw Battleground (Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw)

Location: Blaine County, Montana, 16 miles south of Chinook, off of a gravel road to Cleveland, Montana.

Ownership: 160-acre site owned by the State of Montana.

Historical Narrative: The Nez Perce, continuing their trek toward the Canadian border, camped along Snake Creek in a crescent-shaped area between the mouth of two coulees with open rolling grasslands on three sides. On September 29, 1877, Col. Nelson A. Miles from Fort Keogh found the camp and the following day launched a frontal attack. When the attack failed, Miles imposed a siege that lasted for six days when, after many deaths and much suffering among his people, Chief Joseph surrendered the remaining men, women, and children.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Designated a National Landmark under the "Nez Perce 1877 Campaign" theme, 1988. The boundaries of the monument and the NHL are not co-extensive; this discrepancy should be reviewed if any action is taken to bring this unit into the National Park System. Site on Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Condition: The battlefield remains largely unaltered and protected by its status as a state monument. There are two monuments in the park which the 1969 NPS report indicated were subject to some vandalism.

Interpretive Theme: As the site of the surrender of Chief Joseph, whose "speech" stirred the nation, and the conclusion of the 1877 war, this is one of the most significant sites associated with the Nez Perce campaign.

Suitability/Feasibility: This site is nationally significant and has high integrity. Comments on earlier drafts of this study from state officials and local citizens indicate strong interest in donating this site to the National Park Service. If it became part of the National Park System, it would fall under the jurisdiction of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office and could be administered with cooperative agreements outlining areas of cooperation with Nez Perce National Historical Park.

Site Evaluation–Washington

Swallows Nest Rock

Location: Adjacent to Highway 129 just south of Clarkston, Washington.

Ownership: Private.

Historical Narrative: This is an imposing natural landmark near the confluence of the Clearwater River with the Snake River. A remnant of a volcanic feature that prehistorically dammed the Snake River, it rises 800-900 feet above the highway below and appears to parallel in elevation to the Lewiston Airport (1430 feet above sea level). Questioning of members of the Nez Perce tribe revealed no special significance to or associations with Nez Perce culture.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Not determined; unlikely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Condition: With the exception of a long-abandoned municipal water canal, the property associated with the Swallows Nest feature is undeveloped. The east face is a nearly vertical sheer face of unvegetated lava falling to the highway below. Access up the westerly slopes is through wild grasses and sage brush.

Interpretive Theme: This is a significant natural landmark in the evolution of the Snake River Valley. It has no known relationship to Nez Perce culture.

Suitability/Feasibility: Because the task force was unable to identify any relationship with Nez Perce culture, Swallows Nest Rock is not recommended for addition to the park. It is suggested that the owner pursue his interest in donating the feature to either Washington State Parks or Asotin County.

Site Evaluation—Washington

Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger

Location: The gravesite is at Nespelem, Washington, in a Nez Perce cemetery on the Colville Indian Reservation. Nespelem is approximately 16 miles north of Coulee Dam on State Route 155.

Ownership: Colville Indian Reservation.

Historical Narrative: The Colville Indian Reservation was created by an Executive Order of President Grant in 1872. It was set aside for the displaced bands of the northern Washington territory not included under any treaty with the United States. After their surrender at Bear's Paw Mountain on October 5, 1877, and their years of exile in the Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma, Chief Joseph and his band were allowed to return to the Northwest, but to the Colville Reservation in eastern Washington, not to their Wallowa homeland. It is here that Chief Joseph spent his remaining years, still pleading to be allowed to return to the Wallowa, and where he died in 1904, sitting in front of his teepee fire, of a reported broken heart.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Needs a determination of eligibility.

Condition: This is an active cemetery containing a mixture of headstones, small tablets, and rocks carefully marking the final resting places of many Nez Perce. Chief Joseph's small monument is a central but not dominant feature; he is surrounded by the graves of other warriors and veterans of the 1877 war. The cemetery is very spartan with sparse vegetation in the form of native grasses, forbes, sage bush, and a lone tree near Chief Joseph's grave interspersed among the earthen mounds covering each grave. Each grave is maintained by family members; their varied brightly colored ornaments contrast with the overall somber character of the cemetery.

Interpretive Theme: This site provides the stage for discussing the final chapter of the Joseph band's odyssey from the Wallowa Country to the Colville Reservation. Against this somber background, wayside exhibits could discuss the dispersal of Chief Joseph and his followers after their surrender at Bear's Paw and the subsequent history of the band on the Colville Reservation. The impact of important events such as the 1918 flu epidemic and the participation of young Nez Perce in World War II and the Korean conflict are tragically illustrated in the cemetery.

Suitability/Feasibility: If the existing legislation is amended to permit inclusion of sites outside of Idaho within the park, this site could be associated with Nez Perce NHP as a cooperative site. A cooperative agreement with the Nez Perce on the Colville Reservation could be sought that would provide for interpretation of the cemetery, primarily through wayside exhibits. This interpretation could be coordinated with other exhibits at the winter and summer campsites of Chief Joseph. Coulee Dam National Recreation Area could manage the site through a cooperative agreement with the Nez Perce, the Colville Reservation, and the park.

Site Evaluation—Washington

Nez Perce Campsites

Location: Colville Indian Reservation, Washington. “Last Campsite of Chief Joseph the Younger”—west of state Highway 155 and Nespelem Creek, about one mile south of the Nez Perce cemetery “Winter Campsite”—east bank of the Nespelem River.

Ownership: Uncertain.

Historical Narrative: These two sites have been identified by his descendents as the last campsites of Chief Joseph the Younger on the Colville Reservation. A Bureau of Indian Affairs survey, included in the 1969 NPS additions study, supports this identification.

National Register/National Landmark Status: Needs a determination of eligibility.

Condition: “Last campsite:” a ten-acre site on a gently sloping field bordered on the east by Nespelem Creek. In 1969 what appeared to be teepee or lodge platforms were visible; the site was field checked only with a drive-by view in 1987, at which time there was a considerable amount of structural scrap from a defunct sawmill littering the general vicinity. The “Winter Campsite” on the east bank of the Nespelem River was cut through from south to north by a service road. Little surface evidence of a village site was visible on the sagebrush-covered hillside.

Interpretive Theme: Together these sites illustrate the perpetuation of traditional seasonal movement from high to low ground by the Joseph Band after their exile to the Colville Reservation. This is particularly interesting given that the different climate and geology of the Colville area did not require such movement as a survival strategy; it was, instead, a memory of the more varied climate and topography of their Wallowa Valley home.

Suitability/Feasibility: These sites could be interpreted as cooperative units of the park through wayside exhibits in association with the Nez Perce cemetery where Chief Joseph the younger is buried. Amendment of existing park legislation to permit inclusion of sites outside of Idaho would be required.

Site Evaluation—Montana/Wyoming

Nez Perce Retreat Trail Through Yellowstone National Park

Location: Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming and Montana.

Ownership: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

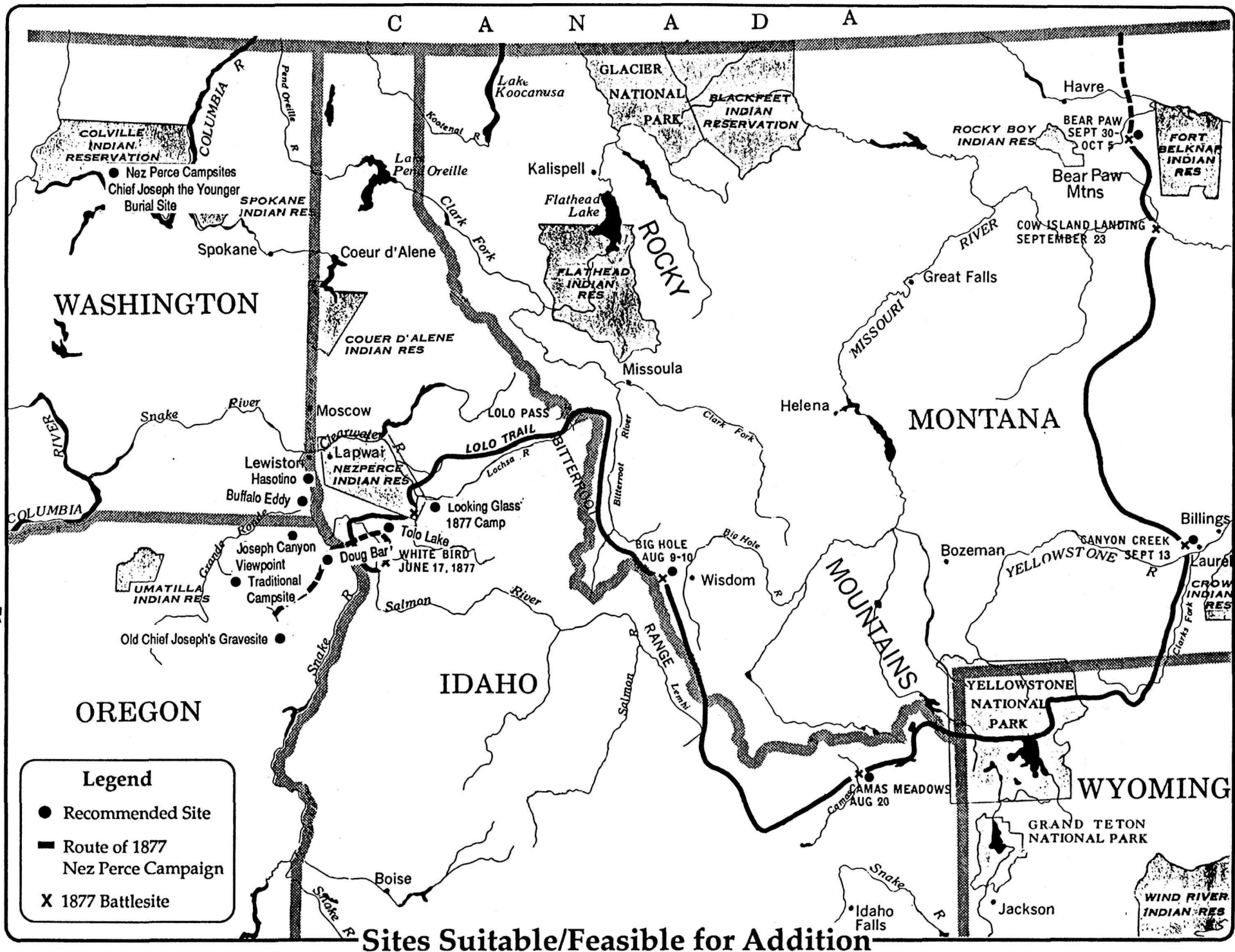
Historical Narrative: As the Nez Perce continued their retreat after the battles of Big Hole and Camas Meadows, they entered Yellowstone National Park on August 23, 1877, which had only been established five years earlier. They spent their first night in the park on the banks of the Firehole River near Nez Perce Creek. They captured and briefly held a party of tourists before they continued their march through the park, across the Yellowstone River near Mud Volcano to Pelican Creek, up Pelican Creek and down Mint Creek to the Lamar River, down the Lamar and up the valley of Cache Creek over the divide and out of the park.

National Register/National Landmark Status: The route needs a determination of eligibility. Site on Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Condition: Within the boundaries of the national park, the resources and visual qualities along the route of this historic march have been preserved.

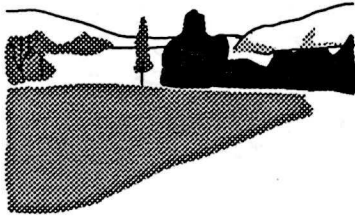
Interpretive Theme: This was a unique episode in the history of the National Park Service. As the 1969 NPS report noted, Philetus W. Norris was the only superintendent in NPS history to witness an Indian and calvary chase through his park. In terms of the war, General Howard called the Nez Perce retreat through the park “an example of consummate generalship.”

Suitability/Feasibility: Because this site is already within an established National Park, the task force’s discussions focused on the possibilities of enhancing the interpretation of this episode in the 1877 campaign through increased cooperation between Yellowstone National Park, Nez Perce NHP, and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. This could entail introduction of interpretive wayside exhibits on the campaign, incorporation of additional information on the retreat into revised Nez Perce NHP brochures and Yellowstone interpretive materials, and other cooperative interpretive ventures that could be outlined in a cooperative agreement between the two parks.



Sites Suitable/Feasible for Addition

SUMMARY



The impetus for this study was the request to the National Park Service by members of the Oregon Congressional delegation, responding to the concerns of their constituents in eastern Oregon, that the Service review and comment on the proposal that the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite at Wallowa Lake in Oregon be added to Nez Perce National Historical Park. This question was earlier studied by a 1969 NPS team that recommended that the gravesite and the Joseph Canyon Viewpoint be added to the park. After review of the 1969 findings and the results of its own investigations, the 1987 task force concurs with the 1969 study that it would be appropriate to add these two sites to the park.

The task force recognizes that the existing legislation for the park must be amended before these areas could be added to the park. These needed amendments are described in greater detail below. However, the fact that such amendments would be required prompted the team to expand its task beyond the review of these two sites to a comprehensive review of other important sites associated with the park's themes not currently under the park's "umbrella." The following list represents those sites that were identified by the team as part of this overview and were found to be suitable and feasible as potential additions to the park, or for association with the park, through some form of cooperative agreement. Information on each site is provided in the preceding Site Evaluation section of this report. Because of the unique character of the park, which allows for inclusion of sites under its umbrella through a variety of options, each site evaluation also includes a discussion of options under which a site could be associated with the park.

1. Tolo Lake (ID)
2. Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite (ID)
3. Buffalo Eddy (WA/ID)
4. Dug Bar (OR)
5. Hasotino Village Site (ID)
6. Camas Meadows Battle Sites (ID)
7. Joseph Canyon Viewpoint (OR)
8. Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite (OR)
9. Traditional Campsite at the historic junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers (OR)
10. Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger (WA)
11. Nez Perce Campsites (WA)
12. Big Hole National Battlefield (MT)
13. Bear's Paw Battleground (Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw) (MT)
14. Canyon Creek (MT)

In regard to Big Hole National Battlefield, an established NPS unit, this association could be through a cooperative agreement between Big Hole NB and Nez Perce NHP to work more closely together in interpreting the 1877 campaign. Similar cooperative agreements could exist between Nez Perce NHP and Bear's Paw Battleground and Canyon Creek. The task force believes that interpretation of the Nez Perce Retreat Trail through Yellowstone National Park could be enhanced by cooperative efforts between the staffs of Nez Perce National Historical Park and Yellowstone National Park.

Legislation

Public Law 89-19, which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to designate Nez Perce National Historical Park, established the framework and limitations under which new sites could be added to the park.

—The Declaration of Purpose defined the geographic scope of the park as "The Nez Perce Country of Idaho."

—Section 2 listed a number of themes related to the history of the Nez Perce Country which could be commemorated by the park.

—Section 3: The Secretary of the Interior was given the authority to designate and acquire sites, using both donated and appropriated funds. However, specific limitations were placed on the amount of land, or interests therein, that could be acquired: 1500 acres in fee and 1500 acres in scenic easements.

—In sections 4a and 4b, provisions were made to permit the inclusion of sites owned by other federal and non-federal agencies, the Nez Perce tribe and private landowners through cooperative agreements.

—The final section, section 7, established authorized limits for the acquisition of lands and interests (\$630,000) and for construction, restoration work and other improvements within the park (\$1,337,000). The later amount, \$1,337,000, was subsequently increased to \$4,100,000 by P. L. 94-578, Title II.

In order for the majority of the sites listed above to be added to the park, modifications of the existing legislation will be required:

—Boundaries: The existing statute limits the park to the state of Idaho. In order to incorporate the sites identified in Oregon, Washington, and Montana, this boundary limitation would have to be eliminated or modified. This could be accomplished by adding the following underlined passage to the Declaration of Purpose to read "... in the Nez Perce country of Idaho and adjacent States...."

A similar modification of Section 6, line 3, would read "... with the State of Idaho and adjacent States, their political...."

An alternative course of action would be to delete any reference to State boundaries for the park.

—Ceiling on the amount authorized for acquisition of lands: The existing ceiling for the acquisition of lands in fee or scenic easement, \$630,000, has been fully obligated. Acquisition of the small tracts of land and scenic easements at the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite at Wallowa Lake and other sites could not proceed without an increase in this ceiling.

—A 1988 review of NPS land records for Nez Perce NHP revealed 1388.18 acres owned in fee and 445.02 acres in scenic easements. Although only modest land acquisitions are proposed, the 112 acres left under the existing 1500-acre ceiling would not be adequate to bring all of the sites discussed and found suitable in this report into the park. Scenic easements are proposed at several sites that could exceed the 1055 acres left under the easement ceiling of 1500 acres. When more precise boundaries for easements are identified, it seems likely that an increase in this ceiling would be required.

—Ceiling on construction and development: The current construction ceiling of \$4,100,000 has been expended in the development of the visitor center and other improvements at Spalding and the other NPS-owned sites. Implementation of other improvements proposed for existing units, such as a visitor contact station at White Bird, as well as of any of the facilities suggested for the sites discussed

in this report, will require an increase in this construction and development ceiling.

— Bear's Paw Battleground: The State of Montana has offered to donate the state park that incorporates the significant portion of the battleground to the National Park System, provided any restrictions on accepting areas into the System that have received Land and Water Conservation Fund grants are removed by legislation. An alternative to incorporating Bear's Paw, and other sites described in this study that are located outside of the National Park Service's Pacific Northwest Region, into Nez Perce NHP would be to establish them as independent sites of the National Park System, managed under the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, that could enter into cooperative agreements with Nez Perce NHP.

Operational Requirements

Establishing and maintaining the sites evaluated and found appropriate for addition to the park would require interpretive exhibits, landscaping, signing, and annual staffing and maintenance. However, estimating the costs for these developments is beyond the scope of this study.

As part of this study, the task force reviewed the current operation of the park's interpretive program to determine how the sites studied would fit into the existing park. It became evident that there is a need to identify and implement additional strategies to unify all of the park's units, existing and potential, into one conceptual whole. A key concept, which has already surfaced in previous plans for the park but remains unrealized, is that of establishing multiple entrances or gateways to the park. Located at four strategic points, these entrance stations would provide an opportunity to orient visitors to the entire park, to increase their awareness of the other units that lay ahead and the multiple themes that tie them together. This kind of orientation is now being carried out at Park headquarters at Spalding, which would be the "North Entrance" to the park under this concept. Existing plans call for a small-scale visitor contact facility with indoor exhibits, staffed by an on-site Ranger, at White Bird Battlefield. This would function as the "South Entrance," catching visitors traveling north on U.S. 95. Enhanced interpretation of the park at the existing USFS visitor contact facility at Lolo Pass could provide an "East Entrance." This could be accomplished through an amendment to

the existing cooperative agreement and additional funding to develop an appropriate exhibit and support the annual cost of a shared staff person. An alternative East Entrance could be Big Hole NB, an established NPS-owned site, through a cooperative agreement with Nez Perce National Historical Park. The "West Entrance" could be the Old Chief Joseph Burial Site at Wallowa Lake. This is an appropriate place in terms of its location in the southwestern portion of traditional Nez Perce territory and as the beginning of the story of the Nez Perce War. As noted above and in the Site Evaluation section, a lightly staffed visitor contact facility could serve this function.

The task force also believes that there are additional opportunities for NPS to join other agencies and landowners of significant sites in interpreting the Nez Perce themes. The incorporation of new sites under the park umbrella to provide a more comprehensive interpretation of the Nez Perce story is but one avenue. The Lolo Pass "entrance station" concept is an example of expanding existing levels of cooperation. Closer coordination with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the USFS-managed Nez Perce National Historic Trail, both of which include sites which are also currently included in, or found suitable and feasible for inclusion in Nez Perce NHP, would provide other avenues for cooperation.

Annual meetings of the managers and owners of the various sites incorporated under the park's umbrella would also be highly desirable. These meetings would provide an opportunity for regular exchanges of information on the individual sites, overall objectives of the park, site-specific and general issues, and cooperative ventures. Cooperative agreements between the Pacific Northwest Region and the Rocky Mountain Region for administration of the NPS-owned sites related to the park's themes could contain specific provisions for coordination between the managers of these units, including annual meetings and development of planning documents, such as interpretive prospectuses, that address issues of mutual concern.

Joint publications would provide another means of unifying the interpretation of sites related to the park's themes. New brochures could include the following:

—Ne Mee Poo Trail, which is the trail followed by the Nez Perce during the 1877 campaign and is currently administered by the USFS;

—Nez Perce National Historical Park, to include new units; and,

—Buffalo Eddy, to help protect and preserve the pictographs and petroglyphs through education.

Conclusion

The people, events, and sites represented by Nez Perce National Historical Park have played a leading role in shaping the history and development of the West, beginning with the first contact between Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce at Wierpe prairie in 1805. The Nez Perce War of 1877 was one of the most dramatic episodes in a struggle between a proud peace-loving people and a nation surging westward to understand and live with each other. The war was an event that not only deeply affected its participants and their descendants for generations but reached beyond to stir the emotions of an entire nation. Inclusion of the sites identified and found suitable by this report for association with Nez Perce NHP would allow the National Park Service to finally interpret the whole story of the Nez Perce, their country, and their impact on American history, as mandated by Congress when it established the park in 1965.

Appendix A. Enabling Legislation

Public Law 89-19

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Nez Perce National Historical Park in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the purpose of this Act to facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country of Idaho that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation.

Sec. 2. To implement this purpose the Secretary of the Interior may designate as the Nez Perce National Historical Park various component sites in Federal and non-Federal ownership relating to the early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the area, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining and logging, the Nez Perce war of 1877, and such other sites as he finds will depict the role of the Nez Perce country in the westward expansion of the Nation.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Interior may acquire by donation or with donated funds such lands, or interests therein, and other property which in his judgment will further the purpose of this Act and he may purchase with appropriated funds land, or interest therein, required for the administration of the Nez Perce National Historical Park: Provided, That he may purchase no more than one thousand five hundred acres in scenic easements. The Nez Perce Tribe's governing body, if it so desires, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, is authorized to sell, donate, or exchange tribal-owned lands held in trust needed to further the purpose of this Act.

Sec. 4. (a) Indian trust land may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Nez Perce National Historical Park with the concurrence of the beneficial owner. Sites in Federal ownership under the administrative jurisdiction of other Government agencies may likewise be designated by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Nez Perce National Historical Park with the concurrence of the agency having administrative responsibility therefor, but such designation shall effect no transfer of administrative control unless the administering agency consents thereto. Not more than one thousand and five hundred acres overall shall be designated pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this subsection. The Secretary of the Interior may cooperate with the Nez Perce Tribe or the administering agency, as the case may be, in research into and interpretation of the significance of any site so designated and in providing desirable interpretive services and facilities and other facilities required for public access to and use and enjoyment of the site and in conservation of the scenic and other resources thereof.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of property which, under the provisions of this act, may be designated for inclusion in Nez Perce National Historical Park as sites in non-Federal ownership, and he may assist in the preservation, renewal, and interpretation of the properties, provided the cooperative agreements shall contain, but not be limited to, provisions

that: (1) the Secretary has right of access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property for the purpose of conducting visitors through the property and interpreting it to the public, and (2) no changes or alterations shall be made in the properties, including buildings and grounds, without the written consent of the Secretary.

Sec. 5. When the Secretary of the Interior determines that he has acquired title to, or interest in, sufficient properties or determines that he has entered into appropriate cooperative agreements with owners of non-Federal properties, or any combination thereof including the designation of sites already in Federal ownership, he shall by publication in the Federal Register establish the Nez Perce National Historical Park and thereafter administer the Federal property under his administrative jurisdiction in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), as amended and supplemented.

Sec. 6. (a) In order to carry out the purpose of this Act the Secretary of the Interior may contract and make cooperative agreements with the State of Idaho, its political subdivisions or agencies, corporations, associations, the Nez Perce Tribe, or individuals, to protect, preserve, maintain, or operate any site, object, or property included within the Nez Perce National Historical Park, regardless of whether title thereto is in the United States: Provided, That no contract or cooperative agreement shall be made or entered into which will obligate the general fund of the Treasury unless or until Congress has appropriated money for such purpose.

(b) To facilitate the interpretation of the Nez Perce country the Secretary is authorized to erect and maintain tablets or markers in accordance with the provisions contained in the Act approved August 21, 1935, entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes" (49 Stat. 666).

Sec. 7. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated the sums of not more than \$630,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in land and not more than \$1,337,000 for construction, restoration work, and other improvements at the Nez Perce National Historical Park under this Act.

Approved May 15, 1965.

Appendix B.
Themes Related to
Existing Sites
within Nez Perce
National Historical
Park

Appendix B. Themes Related to Existing Sites within Nez Perce National Historical Park	THEMES										
	Nez Perce Culture (structure, customs, religion, traditions)						Westward Expansion				
	Prehistoric Culture Prior to European Contact	Post Contact Culture	Missionary Era	Agency Era	Nez Perce War	Years of Transition Reservation/Dawes Act	Lewis and Clark Expedition	The Fur Trade	The Missionaries	The Mining Frontier	The Farmer's Frontier
SITES											
Mackenzies Trading Post		•						•			
Coyote's Fishnet	•	•									
Ant and Yellow Jacket	•	•									
Spalding		•	•	•		•	•		•		
Spalding Home									•		
Northern Idaho Indian Agency		•		•	•	•					
Fort Lapwai		•		•	•	•					
Craig Donation		•	•					•		•	
St. Joseph's Mission		•	•			•			•		
Cottonwood Skirmishes					•						
Weis Rockshelter	•										
Camas Prairie	•	•			•	•					•
White Bird Battlefield					•						
Clearwater Battlefield					•						
East Kamiah	•	•									
Asa Smith Mission		•	•						•		
Lewis and Clark Camp		•					•				
Canoe Camp		•					•				
Lenore	•										
Weippe Prairie		•				•	•				
Pierce										•	
Musselshell Meadows	•	•									
Lolo Trail/Pass	•	•			•		•				

Appendix C. Themes Related to Evaluated Sites

Appendix C.
Themes Related to
Evaluated Sites

SITES	THEMES										
	Nez Perce Culture (structure, customs, religion, traditions)						Westward Expansion				
	Prehistoric Culture Prior to European Contact	Post Contact Culture	Missionary Era	Agency Era	Nez Perce War	Years of Transition Reservation/Dawes Act	Lewis and Clark Expedition	The Fur Trade	The Missionaries	The Mining Frontier	The Farmer's Frontier
Tolo Lake	•	•			•						
Campsite: Looking Glass		•			•						
Buffalo Eddy	•										
Doug Bar	•	•			•						
Hasotino	•										
Camas Meadows					•						
Joseph Canyon	•	•									
Old Chief Joseph Gravesite		•				•					•
Traditional Campsite		•									•
Burial Site Chief Joseph Younger					•	•					
Nez Perce Campsites		•			•	•					
Big Hole NB					•						
Bear's Paw					•						
Canyon Creek					•						

These sites were found to be suitable and feasible for inclusion in Nez Perce National Historical Park because they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) expand knowledge/representation of prehistoric Nez Perce culture
- 2) incorporate areas of the prehistoric and historic homelands of Nez Perce bands presently excluded
- 3) complete representation of key points of conflict in the Nez Perce War.

**Appendix D.
Excerpt from
National Register of
Historic Places
Documentation for
"Nez Perce 1877
Campaign"**

In United States history, practically no military campaigns against Indians compare with General Oliver Otis Howard's 1877 attempt to capture a group of non-treaty Nez Perce bands. General William T. Sherman, who almost encountered that operation while a tourist in Yellowstone Park, reported to United States Senate investigators that he had been dealing with

one of the most extraordinary Indian wars of which there is any record. The Indians throughout displayed a courage and skill that elicited universal praise. They abstained from scalping; let captive women go free; did not commit indiscriminate murder of peaceful families, which is usual, and fought with almost scientific skill, using advance and rear guards, skirmish lines, and field fortifications. [M.C. Beal, "I Will Fight No More Forever:" Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1963), 243.]

Howard concurred with Sherman's evaluation. With exceptional skill, they had eluded him for almost four months, packing their possessions and families through difficult terrain that Howard's armies had a great deal of trouble trying to traverse. In search of a refuge safe from any pursuit, they had traveled 1700 miles through Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana before some of them made a deal with Colonel Nelson A. Miles to return to Idaho's Nez Perce Reservation. Miles, later commander of all United States Army forces, concluded that "The whole Nez Perce movement is unequalled in the history of Indian warfare." [Alvin M. Josephy, *The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965), 632.]

Joseph's band from northeastern Oregon had experienced an even longer ordeal. They had left their Wallowa Valley home May 15, 1877, a month before they became embroiled in an Idaho conflict between White Bird's band and some troublesome lower Salmon ranchers. Joseph's exceptional ability to preserve and interpret his Nez Perce heritage regardless of overwhelming adversity enabled him to emerge as a statesman with a well-deserved national reputation for protecting his people and extricating them from exile in Oklahoma. (When a National Portrait Gallery postage stamp appeared to mark its opening, October 5, 1968, Joseph was the national statesman pictured on that commemorative issue.) His trail from Wallowa Lake in Oregon to Bear's Paw battleground in northern Montana represents a nationally significant episode of Nez Perce tradition that has gained National Park Service recognition for many of its more important features. In such an extended episode, a number of potential National Historic Landmarks can be identified, including several that have not been designated or otherwise incorporated into National Park Service sites.

Out of an inventory of more than 42 historic sites in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington related to General Oliver Otis Howard's 1877 Nez Perce campaign, one (Lolo Trail) already is a registered National Historic Landmark; one (Big Hole) is a National Monument; two more are Nez Perce National Historical Park components to be identified as National Historic Landmarks. These are a traditional cultural and camp site at Wallowa Lake in Oregon, a traditional Camas Prairie campsite at Tolo Lake from which hostilities began; Looking Glass; campsite near Kamiah, where an attack July 1 had greatly enlarged Howard's problem; a marvelously preserved battle site near Camas Meadows in Idaho; a concluding siege site near Bear's Paw in Montana where Howard's more than 1,000-mile campaign was concluded; and Joseph's summer and winter campgrounds on Colville reservation after he was allowed to settle there.

Commencing in response to an ultimatum he had issued in 1876 to Joseph's Wallowa band, Howard's campaign turned out to be far more arduous than he had anticipated. For several months, national attention was focused upon his numerous misadventures in attempting to move Joseph's people to a northern Idaho Nez Perce reservation. Resistance of Oregon ranchers to allowing any Nez Perce Indians to remain in their traditional Wallowa homeland, and reluctance of Joseph's band to resettle with other Nez Perce Indians in another territory, got Howard into an awkward predicament in which Joseph emerged from an eight-year controversy with a national reputation as a superlative Indian leader. Unable to attain either of his primary objectives—preferable to remain in his Oregon homeland, or, if Howard's ultimatum could not be rejected, to settle in Idaho—Joseph wound up in exile in Washington. Some of his people fled to Canada; others were accepted in Idaho; some had to accompany Joseph to a non-Nez Perce reservation in Washington; and a substantial group of campaign survivors perished in Oklahoma and Kansas before Joseph's segment was allowed to return to Idaho or Washington. This entire episode attained national significance in Indian and military history. Pacific Northwest and northern plains sites gained congressional recognition as part of a Nez Perce trail designation in 1986, with Indian reaction to Howard's campaign as a central core in identifying an appropriate trail route.

A site of exceptional Nez Perce cultural significance—a small camping and ceremonial area overlooking Wallowa Lake—survives to identify Joseph's homeland. Forced to depart from this traditional area of summer activity, Joseph and his band set out on

a long, four-month journey that took them to Bear's Paw Battleground in north-central Montana. Although they intended only to cross Snake River into Idaho, they encountered hostilities on Salmon River that involved White Bird's band—another Nez Perce group under similar ranching pressure to move to Camas Prairie, where reservation lands of other bands were thought appropriate for them. White Bird did not want a war either, but neither he nor Joseph (as band leaders) could avoid further hostilities when forces from Howard's army surprised their camp in White Bird canyon. That site of an initial Nez Perce victory is National Park Service property.

Eluding Howard's army—aside from some skirmishes—on their circuitous trip to a Clearwater camp near Stites, White Bird's and Joseph's bands were joined by Looking Glass and other Nez Perce non-treaty elements forced into battle. When Howard's army finally located and attacked them at Clearwater battleground (another Nez Perce National Historical Park site of landmark significance), about two dozen Nez Perce warriors held Howard off until all non-treaty groups there could go up to Weippe Prairie (another existing National Historic Landmark) and determine an appropriate course of action.

Aware that they could anticipate further trouble from Howard's army if they attempted to remain in Idaho, which Joseph preferred in spite of all their current difficulties, all Nez Perce groups involved in White Bird's military operations set out on their traditional Lolo Trail (National Historic Landmark) to Montana's buffalo plains. Some preferred to seek refuge in Canada, but as a group they continued on to join their traditional Crow buffalo hunting associates. While camped at Big Hole, they had to repulse an attack by John Gibbon's army force at a National Battlefield site.

Aware of their new Montana problems, they returned to Idaho, where Howard continued to pursue them. They managed to stall Howard's approach, though, by capturing most of his pack mules at Camas Meadows. When Howard's detachment attempted to recover their mules, they were able to consolidate their success by a siege on a site that retains its rock pits and 1877 integrity to a remarkable degree. Significant because it prevented Howard from stopping their progress back into Wyoming and Montana, their engagement concluded their Idaho dealings with Howard's military forces.

Finding their Crow associates unwilling to become involved in hostilities with Howard, and unable to go on a peaceful buffalo hunt, Joseph and his non-treaty Nez Perce associates had to head for Canada after all. Adroit in avoiding more than a few skirmishes between Yellowstone Park and northern Montana, they finally were besieged at another site of landmark significance. White Bird and a majority of Nez Perce warriors decided to seek safety in Canada, but Joseph negotiated a deal with Miles and Howard that he could return to Idaho (where he had consistently tried to stay), along with a group of warriors who were in no shape to travel further. A majority of Nez Perce women and children (but not his own family) remained with Joseph to return to Idaho. (That took eight years of further negotiation, after which some of them were sent to Washington instead.) Bear's Paw battleground, where neither side could win a victory, leading to a compromise, also is clearly of landmark significance and retains its 1877 integrity as a Montana state monument.

The report was prepared by the National Park Service,
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