

Wallowa Valley, Oregon,
to Kooskia, Idaho



Experience the Nez Perce Trail

Imnaha River, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Oregon
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

1

AUTO TOUR



Wallowa Valley, Oregon to Kooskia, Idaho



Maps in this brochure are for general orientation only and are not to scale. Please use a US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management or other detailed topographic map for accurate and specific information.

For further information on federal recreation facilities visit www.recreation.gov or call toll free 1-877-444-6777.



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

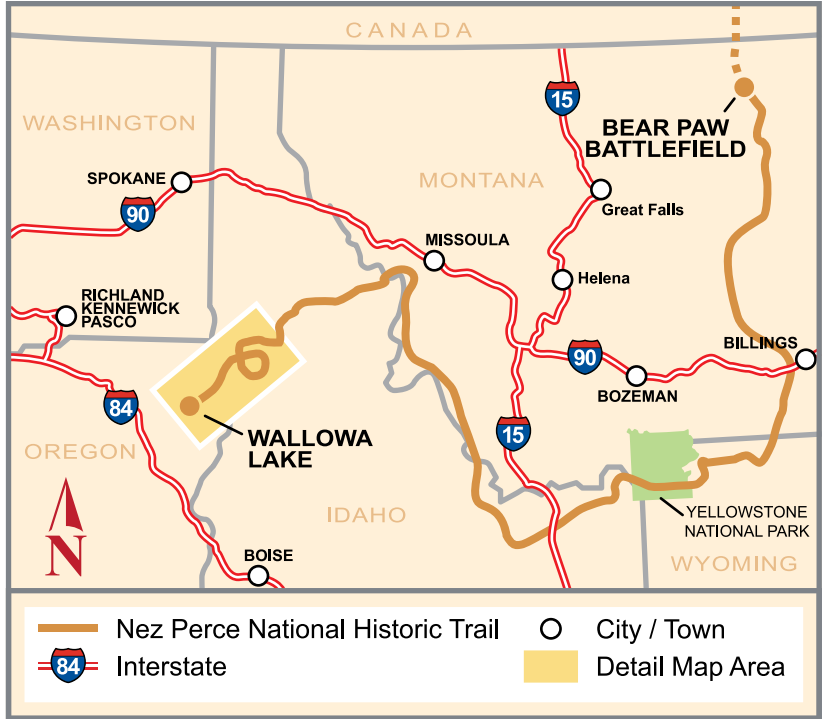
Designated by Congress in 1986, the entire Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) stretches 1,170 miles from the Wallowa Valley of eastern Oregon to the plains of north-central Montana. The NPNHT includes a designated corridor encompassing 4,161 miles of roads, trails and routes.

This segment of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail from **Wallowa Valley, Oregon to Kooskia, Idaho** is one of eight available tours (complete list on page 39). These are available at Forest Service offices and other federal and local visitor centers along the route.

As you travel this historic trail, you will see highway signs marking the official Auto Tour route. Each Mainstream Auto Tour route stays on all-weather roads passable for all types of vehicles. Adventurous and Rugged Routes are an alternative for those seeking the most authentic historic route. They are often on gravel or dirt roads, so plan ahead.

Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage. Designate a contact person at home to communicate through.

Check weather and road conditions before embarking on your journey. Call 511 for road condition reports on major routes. For road condition information on Adventurous and Rugged routes inquire locally.



Experience the Nez Perce Trail



How do I get there?

This Auto tour begins in Joseph in northeast Oregon. Joseph is located approximately 70 miles from La Grande, Oregon and 93 miles from Clarkston, Washington.

From La Grande, OR: Follow Oregon State Highway OR-82E east from La Grande for 17.7 miles to Elgin, OR. Keep right to continue on OR-82E for 26.6 miles to Wallowa, OR. Turn right to stay on OR-82E and continue for 17.7 miles to Enterprise, OR. Turn right to continue on OR-82E for 6.3 miles to Joseph, OR.

From Clarkston, WA: Follow Washington State Highway WA-129S south from Clarkston, WA, for 5.9 miles to Asotin, WA. In Asotin, turn right to continue on WA-129S; in 36.4 miles you will enter Oregon. Continue on Oregon State Highway OR-3S for 43 miles to Enterprise, OR. Turn left on W North St. Take first right onto Oregon State Highway OR-82 E/N River St. Continue on OR-82 E for 6.3 miles to Joseph, OR.

Mainstream Traveler

(Passable for all types of vehicles.)

Staying on all-weather roads, this Auto Tour route allows visitors to experience the Nez Perce National Historic Trail from a distance and will diverge from the routes actually traveled by the Nez Perce in 1877. This route begins at Joseph, Oregon. Travelers will head north to Enterprise, Oregon, where they will have the option to take a side trip west along Oregon State Highway 82 to Lostine, Wallowa and Minam. From Enterprise, Oregon the Mainstream traveler will follow Oregon State Highway 3 north into Washington to Clarkston and then Lewiston, Idaho. They will then travel east on Idaho State Highway 95 to White Bird Battlefield before continuing north through Grangeville to Kooskia, Idaho.

Adventurous Traveler

(Not recommended for motor homes or vehicles towing trailers; usually passable from July to October.)

A winding route that more closely follows the Imnaha and Snake Rivers is a good option for those who want to see



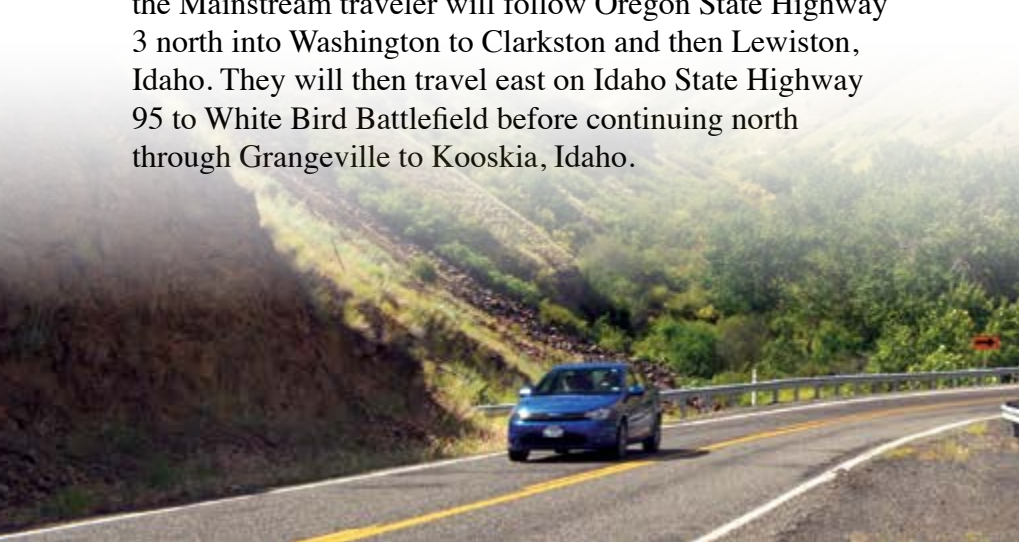
more of the rugged Wallowa backcountry. Before you leave, examine the map carefully, and watch for signs along the way. You may want to have a more detailed Forest Service map.

Rugged Traveler

(Recommended for high clearance, four wheel drive vehicles only; usually passable from July to October.)

Rugged Travelers are taken even closer to the actual sites of many of the events of the summer and fall of 1877. Travelers may leave the route of the Mainstream Traveler in Joseph, Oregon and travel on paved and unpaved roads into the heart of the Wallowa backcountry. Scenic views accompany the Rugged Route to Dug Bar in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, where the Nez Perce crossed a swollen Snake River in May of 1877.

Note that some roads along the Rugged Routes can be impassable during periods of inclement weather and on these routes you may not encounter other travelers for hours or days. Be prepared and inquire locally for details.



Prelude to the Flight of the Nez Perce

Prior to 1855 the Nez Perce (or, in their language, Niimípuu, meaning “the real people” or “we the people”) homeland extended throughout much of north-central Idaho, northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. Tension mounted as whites moved west and settled in the Nez Perce territory. In that same year, the United States government made a treaty that established an approximately 7,500,000-acre Nez Perce Indian Reservation encompassing most of their traditional homeland.

However, the discovery of gold on Nez Perce land triggered an influx of settlers and fueled more conflicts. A new treaty in 1863 shrank the reservation to one-tenth its original size. Some bands of Nez Perce refused to sign the treaty and became known as the “non-treaty” Nez Perce.

In the spring of 1877 the government, responding to pressure from settlers, called on the military to force the “non-treaty” Nez Perce onto the new reservation in Idaho Territory. General Oliver Otis Howard, a Civil War veteran, was to carry out the task.

From June to October of 1877, *Hinmatóowyahtq’it* (Chief Joseph), *Hototo* (Lean Elk), *’Elelímyete’qenin’* (Chief Looking Glass), Chief *Ollokot* (Frog), Chief *Piyóop’yoo xayxáyx* (White Bird) and others led between 750 - 800 Nez Perce men, women and children along with approximately 2,000 horses over 1,170 mountainous miles to what they hoped would be safety with their friends to the east.

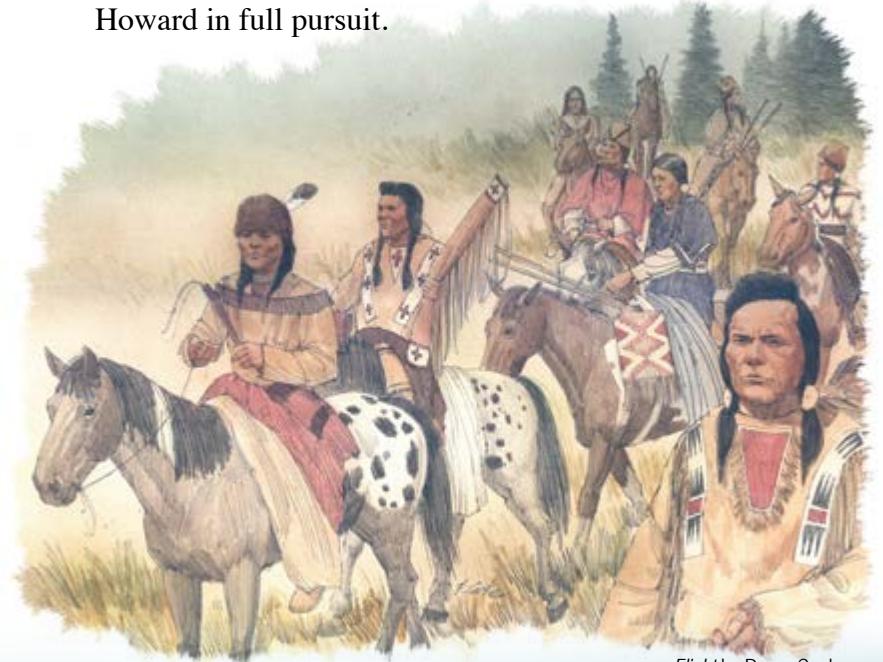
The 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce from their homelands while being pursued by U.S. Army, General Howard and Colonels Samuel Davis Sturgis, John Gibbon and Nelson Appleton Miles is one of the most fascinating and sorrowful events in Western U.S. history.

The Chase Begins

Rather than risk conflict by continuing to resist relocation, the “non-treaty” Nez Perce gathered their livestock and belongings and began a painful and difficult journey to the new reservation.

On June 14, 1877, the Nez Perce bands reached a familiar camas-gathering site at Tolo Lake near Grangeville, Idaho.

That night several young warriors, angered by past atrocities and injustices at the hands of white settlers, set out to avenge their people. Their raid left a number of local settlers dead. The Nez Perce decided to flee and thus embarked upon a four-month journey with General Howard in full pursuit.



Flight by Roger Cooke

This Auto Tour brochure describes the early days of the Flight of the Nez Perce from the U.S. Army under the command of General Howard. In an attempt to reach their perceived allies, the Crow, the “non-treaty” Nez Perce traveled east, leaving behind their traditional homelands in search of peace.

The 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce symbolizes the dramatic collision of cultures which continues to shape America and its people. A native people were forced to flee their homelands in a futile attempt to avoid war and save their traditional ways. European immigrants found themselves fighting neighbors who had been their friends for many years. Traditional trails, which had long been a source of joy and sustenance, became trails of flight and conflict, trails of sorrow.

Chronology of Events

The events in this timeline coincide with the sites seen on this auto tour:

- May 3-14** – A final council between the “non-treaty” Nez Perce and General Oliver Otis Howard takes place at Fort Lapwai. A move to the reservation seems inevitable. **12**
- May 31** – The Wallowa Band crosses the Snake River at Dug Bar. **4**
- June 3** – The five “non-treaty” bands of Chief Joseph, Chief White Bird, Chief Looking Glass, Toohoolhoolzote and Husishusis Kute converge at Tolo Lake for a council and camas gathering. **16**
- June 13** – Wáalaytic (Shore Crossing), Sáapsis 'ilp'íl (Red Mocassin Top) and Wetyétmes wehéyqt (Swan Necklace) leave the Tolo Lake camp. **16**
- June 14** – Raids occur on the Salmon River leaving four white settlers dead. Chief Looking Glass returns to his village at the mouth of Clear Creek and Husishusis Kute camps on the South Fork of the Clearwater River. The other three bands flee to safety on Cottonwood Creek.
- June 15** – The three bands of Chief Joseph, Chiefs White Bird and Toohoolhoolzote move to Lamtamas camp at the mouth of White Bird Creek on the Salmon River. Ninety United States soldiers leave Fort Lapwai at night to begin driving the Nez Perce onto the reservation.
- June 17** – Battle of White Bird. Thirty-four soldiers are killed and three Nez Perce are wounded. **17**
- June 18** – After camping near Slate Creek on the Salmon River, the Nez Perce camp moves downstream to Horseshoe Bend.
- June 19** – The Nez Perce cross the Salmon River.
- June 26-27** – General Howard’s troops bury their dead at the White Bird battlefield. **17**
- July 1** – Captain Whipple’s troops attack and plunder Chief Looking Glass’ village near Kooskia. **21**
- July 3** – Captain Rains and 12 troopers are killed near Cottonwood. **15**
- July 5** – Nez Perce warriors skirmish with white citizen volunteers from Mount, Idaho.
- July 7** – The Nez Perce Bands including the Chief Looking Glass Band, camp on Cottonwood Creek on the South Fork of the Clearwater. **19**
- July 11** – Battle of the Clearwater. **19**
- July 12** – General Howard’s command occupies and plunders the Nez Perce camp on the South Fork of the Clearwater. **19**

— **AS YOU TRAVEL THE TRAIL** —

The trail memorializes not only those who died during the flight, but those who survived.

Their tragic journey marked the end of freedom for the Nez Perce and opened their lands to settlement.

As you travel this historic trail between Northeastern Oregon and Kooskia, Idaho, whether you drive, ride or walk, you will gain an understanding of and appreciation for the difficulty of their journey and the tremendous odds the Nez Perce had to face and overcome.

Nez Perce Dreamers in Traditional Dress.
courtesy of WSU L.V. McWhorter Collection



The Nez Perce cultural identity was and is inextricably tied to the land they occupied. They believe that the earth is to be revered, not owned; that the nurturing qualities of the land, the very water and soil, are gifts bestowed upon the people. Believing that they are preordained to occupy this land and that the cycle of living from and then dying and returning back to the same land fosters an unwavering cultural tie to this area. The regeneration of the Niimiipuu through their land is at the root of their concept of life.

*"This is where we were born and raised...
It is our native country. It is impossible for us to leave."*

- Ollokot (Frog)

Notes on Trail Preservation:

To the Niimiipuu, the Trail is part of the Nez Perce sacred land. Use the Trail with respect, remembering that it is part of our heritage. If we want those who come after us to have a sense of the history, it is up to us to preserve and protect the Trail. This land is an important source of spiritual strength for all people including the Nez Perce. Natural and historic sites should be left undisturbed by all who visit.



The Nez Perce bands

The five bands that historically occupied the Wallowa area of Oregon:

Imnámma – Imnaha River Band

Walwáama – Wallowa Band

Weliwe – Band at the mouth of the Grande Ronde River, or Williwewix

Inanto nu – Band at the mouth of Joseph Creek

Toiknimapu – Band above Joseph Creek on the north side of the Grande Ronde River

~ Spinden, H.J. (1908). "The Nez Perce Indians"

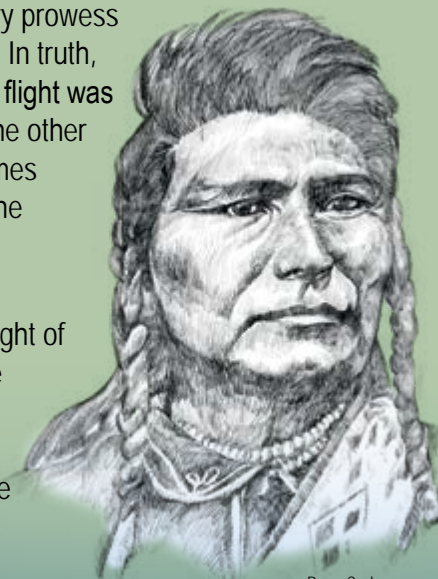
Chief Joseph

Hinmatóowyahtq'it (Thunder Traveling to Loftier Mountain Heights), also known as Young Chief Joseph was chief of the Wallowa Band of Nez Perce during the 1877 Flight.

Unlike other chiefs in the area, Chief Joseph had a great deal of experience negotiating with white settlers, smoothing out disputes and keeping the peace. His father had spent a great deal of time at Spalding's Mission where the young Joseph must have gained a unique perspective on white culture. This relationship with the settlers made Joseph well known to the general public.

During the events of 1877 the press incorrectly labeled Chief Joseph as the supreme leader of the "non-treaty" Nez Perce and attributed the military prowess of the Nez Perce to him. In truth, Josephs' role during the flight was no greater than any of the other chiefs, and at several times he had little sway over the decisions of the council.

Chief Joseph became synonymous with the Flight of 1877 and the Nez Perce due in large part to his eloquence and tireless advocacy for his people after the events of 1877.



Roger Cooke

1 Joseph, Oregon

The Nez Perce name for this area is *hah-un-sah-pah*, “big rocks lying scattered around.” Today, Joseph is a town with homes, shops, and artisan galleries. The streets are 100 feet wide, originally built to accommodate a 4-horse team turnabout. South of Joseph, near scenic Wallowa Lake, is the symbolic beginning of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877.

Wallowa County Museum

110 S. Main Street, open last weekend in May-third weekend in September; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily (541) 432-6095

The Nez Perce Room has local history books and photographs, including historic images of Chief Joseph, local encampments, and Wallowa Lake.

Wallowa Mountains Office & Visitor Services, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

201 East 2nd Street, Joseph, Oregon 97846
Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon – Fri. (541) 426-5546

This office is a good resource for maps, and informational literature related to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Eagle Cap Ranger District, and Wallowa Valley Ranger District.

2 Old Chief Joseph Memorial and Gravesite

From Joseph, OR, take Main Street / Oregon State Highway 351 S / Wallowa Lake Highway south for 1.5 miles. The Old Chief Joseph Memorial and Gravesite will be on the west side of the highway.

This is a national historic landmark and sacred site dedicated to *Tiwíteq’is* (leading the Warriors), also known as Old Chief Joseph. He is referred to as Old Joseph to distinguish him from his son, Chief Joseph (*Hinmatóowyahtq’it*). As a young man, Old Chief Joseph converted to Christianity. In 1877 he signed the treaty of 1855, which set aside 7.5 million acres for the Nez Perce Reservation. Eight years later, he refused to sign a new treaty that relinquished more than 5 million acres.



Tiwíteq’is (Old Chief Joseph)
Gustav Sohon

Adjacent to this site you can visit the Iwetemlaykin (*at the edge of the lake*) State Heritage Site and hike a short trail. Interpretive signs provide more information on Old Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

“This is where I live and there is where I want to leave my body.”

*– Tiwíteq’is (leading the warriors)
– Old Joseph*

3 Imnaha, Oregon

The route to Imnaha and beyond to Asotin is classified as an Adventurous Traveler Route with optional Rugged Traveler Routes branching off. The Mainstream Traveler should skip ahead to page 19 to continue with the Mainstream Traveler Route.

From Joseph, OR, head east on Oregon State Highway 350 E for 29.3 miles to Imnaha.

Imnaha was once a winter village for one of the large bands of the Nez Perce. Numerous pit house villages extended both north and south. The Imnaha River, prior to the building of the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, was one of the finest salmon streams in the region.

There is a canyon overlook interpretive sign 7.5 miles north of Imnaha, Oregon, on the way to Dug Bar.

Fresh Horses and Grub

Barely standing today, a barn called "Midway" is a reminder of increased white settlement in the late-1800s on Nez Perce homelands.

The structure and inn, now gone, once served as an important stage stop. Tired horses were traded out for fresh ones and passengers got a hot meal and some rest.



4 Dug Bar, Oregon

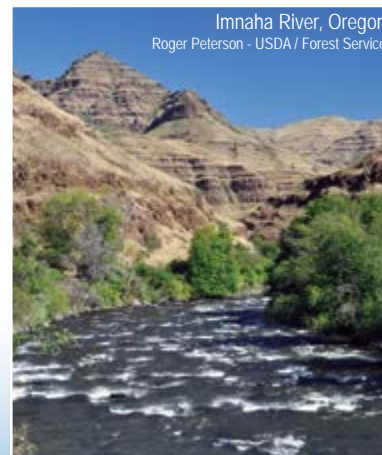
This route is classified as a Rugged Route and is *appropriate for high clearance, 4 wheel drive vehicles only*. Wet or snowy conditions can make this road hazardous. In the summer temperatures can exceed 100° F, be prepared. Fill up your fuel tank in Joseph, OR. Be sure to bring food and water. Dug Bar can also be accessed via jet boat or float trip on the Snake River.

From Imnaha, OR, head north on Lower Imnaha Road for 5.5 miles. Keep right to stay on Lower Imnaha Road and continue for 0.9 miles. Turn right onto Dug Bar Road / Forest Road (FR) 4260 and continue for 6.8 miles. Turn left to stay on Dug Bar Road / FR 4260. Continue on FR 4260 for 17.3 miles to Dug Bar.

On May 31, 1877, in response to the U.S. Army's command, most of the "non-treaty" Nez Perce were making their way towards the reservation. They crossed

the Snake River at Dug Bar before heading east through Rocky Canyon and gathering on Camas Prairie at what is now known as Tolo Lake.

A 25-mile single lane dirt road follows the Imnaha River to the site where the Wallowa Band forded the Snake River which was swollen by snow melt. This canyon still appears much as it would have in 1877.



Return the way you came to go back to Imnaha, OR.

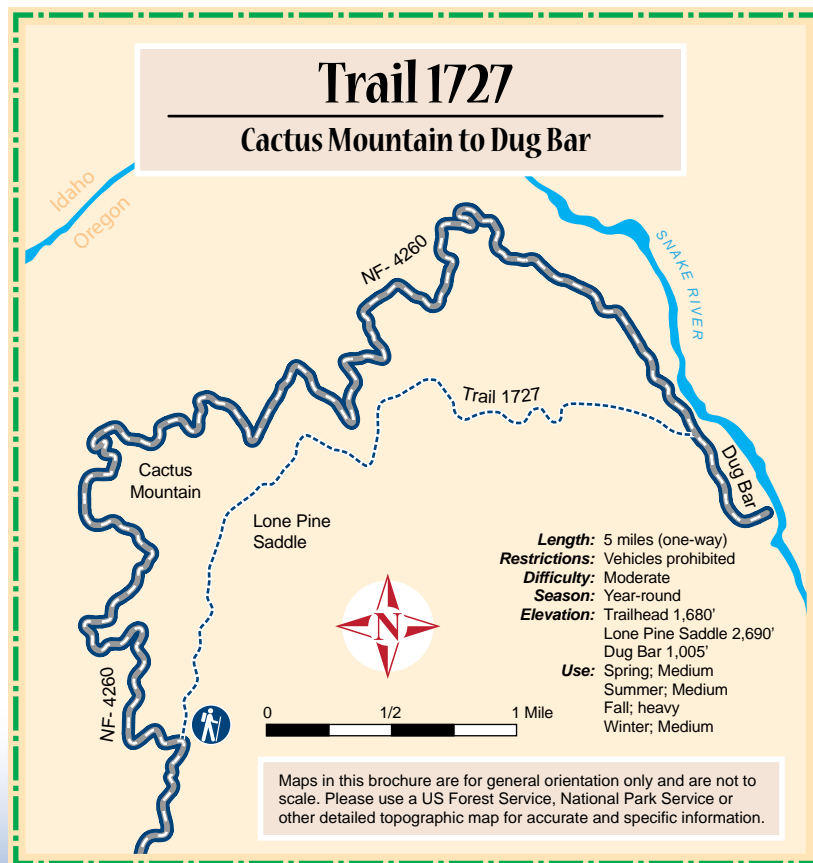


For Hikers: Trail 1727

From trailhead on FR-4260 to Dug Bar, on the Snake River

Trailhead is located approximately 2 miles past the Cow Creek Bridge on FR 4260. It is marked with a small sign on a rock cairn on the right side of the road. Parking is very limited. There are no facilities available at the trailhead until you reach Dug Bar.

There is no water along this trail so be sure to carry plenty of drinking water. Beware of rattlesnakes and poison ivy in the lower elevations of Hells Canyon country. Summer temperatures can exceed 100° F.



Hikers have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Chief Joseph and his people. The trail offers outstanding views and opportunities to view elk, deer, and bighorn sheep, as well as other kinds of wildlife. The prickly pear cactus is abundant along the Nez Perce (Nee-Mee-Poo) Trail. The cactus is generally in full bloom during the spring. People are often dropped off at the trailhead and meet their driver at Dug Bar.



Road to Dug Bar, Hells Canyon, Oregon
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

5 Indian Village Grove, Oregon

From Imnaha, OR, head southwest on Imnaha/Little Sheep Creek Highway/Oregon Highway 350 for 29.4 miles to Joseph, OR. Turn right on to State Highway 82 and head towards Enterprise, OR. In 2.9 miles turn right on to the paved Crow Creek Road and continue 5.2 miles to the junction of Crow Creek and Zumwalt Roads. Turn right onto Zumwalt Road which continues east a short distance. Then the road remains paved while traveling north up through OK Gulch and then changes to a gravel road. Continue for 32.6 miles, through the Zumwalt Prairie and enter the Wallowa Whitman National Forest on FR 4600 (Wellamotkin Drive) north past Thomason Meadows Guard Station, on your right, and continue to FR 880. When you reach FR 880, turn right and drive 1.9 miles to Indian Village Grove.

A half-mile walking trail leads through a grove of ponderosa pines to a former Nez Perce spring camp. Many of the trees here still bear peel scars dating to the 1870s. Before the summer roots and berries were ready to harvest, the outer bark of the pine trees could be peeled to eat the sweet inner cambium layer.



Cactus Mountain Trailhead, Hells Canyon, Oregon
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

6 Buckhorn Lookout, Oregon

From Indian Village Grove, return back along FR 880 for 1.9 miles towards Buckhorn Road / FR 46 and turn right. Follow Buckhorn Road / FR 46 for 20.8 miles then turn right onto FR 780. In 0.6 miles keep to the right to stay on FR 780. In 0.2 miles turn left to stay on FR 780 and continue for another 0.2 miles. Take a right and continue for 0.3 miles to the Buckhorn Lookout.

See magnificent views of the traditional Nez Perce homelands of the Wallowa area bands in the Imnaha Valley and the canyons of Horse Creek, Lightning Creek, and Cow Creek in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

From Buckhorn Lookout, the rugged traveler will closely follow the Snake River Canyon to Asotin, WA, where they can join the Mainstream Traveler Route. This is a full days journey on very rugged roads. Fill up your fuel tank in Joseph, OR, and be sure to bring food and water.

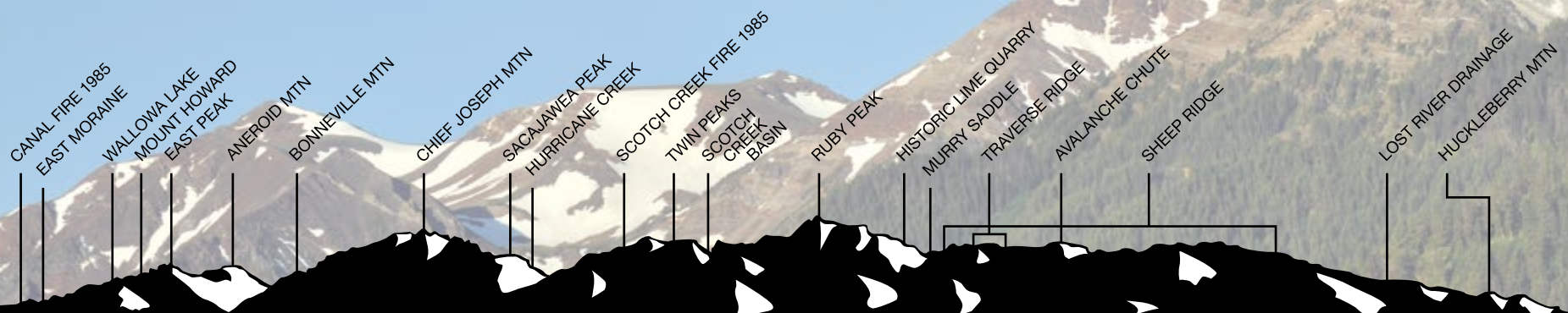
Head back 0.3 miles towards FR 780 and turn left. In 0.2 miles take the first right to stay on FR 780 and continue for 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Buckhorn Road / FR 46 and continue for 7.4 miles. Turn right onto Cold Springs Road / FR 4680 and continue for 7.1 miles. Take a slight right turn onto FR 4680. In 2.7 miles keep left to stay on FR 4680 and continue for 2.8 miles. Here the road becomes Horse Creek Road. Stay on Horse Creek Road for 7.3 miles to the Oregon / Washington border. Here the road becomes Joseph Creek Road. Follow Joseph Creek Road for 6.2 miles where you will cross the Grande Ronde River and keep right to continue on Snake River Road. Follow Snake River Road for 24.3 miles to the outskirts of Asotin. Continue onto Wilson Street. In 0.3 miles continue onto 1st Street into Asotin, WA.

7 Enterprise, Oregon

From the Old Chief Joseph Memorial and Gravesite, travel 1.5 miles north, back to Joseph. In Joseph, continue north on Oregon State Highway 82 for 6.3 miles to Enterprise, OR.

Turn left on Main Street to continue on Oregon State Highway 82. In 1.1 miles stop at the turn out on the south side of the highway.

Chief Joseph Monument: west of downtown Enterprise, Oregon, an interpretive panel honoring Chief Joseph overlooks the Wallowa Valley, the traditional homeland of the Wallowa Band of the Nez Perce.



Side Trip:

Lostine, Wallowa and Minam (62-miles round trip)

This side trip allows the traveler to explore more of the Nez Perce traditional homelands. See the side bar on the facing page for details on some cultural attractions along this route.

Mainstream travelers who do not want to explore this side trip should continue with the Mainstream Auto Tour route at site 8 on page 23.

A Lostine, Oregon

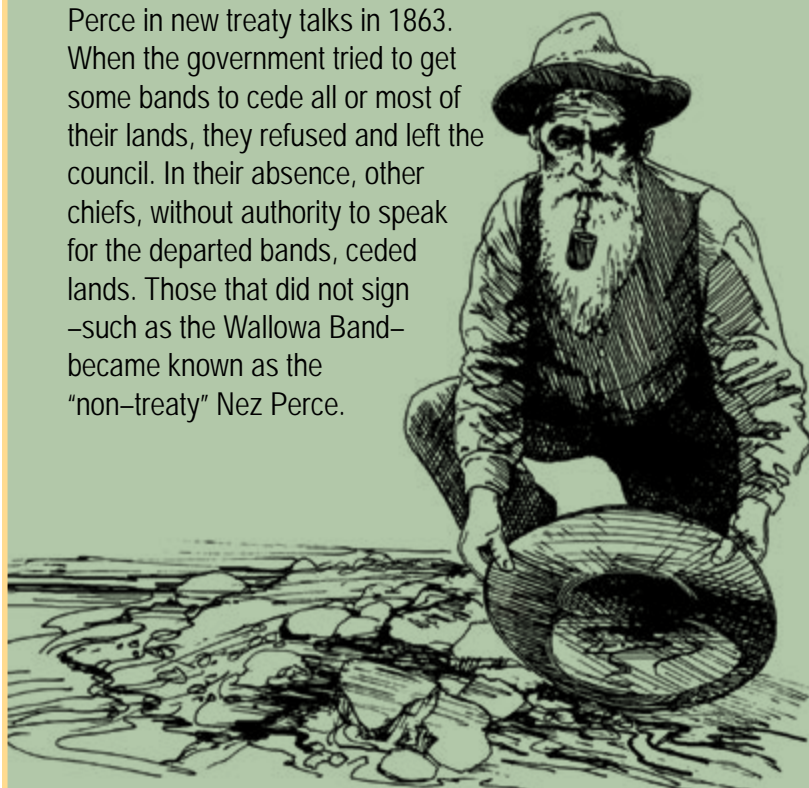
From Enterprise, OR, travel west on Oregon State Highway 82 for 9.8 miles to Lostine.

At the confluence of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers, the Lostine area has long provided campsites for the Nez Perce.

Gold

In 1860, prospectors encroaching on Nez Perce lands struck gold. In the ensuing rush, thousands of miners, merchants and settlers disregarded Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Steven's treaty with the Nez Perce, overran large parts of the reservation, and took Indian lands and livestock. To cope with the crisis, the U.S. Government engaged the Nez Perce in new treaty talks in 1863.

When the government tried to get some bands to cede all or most of their lands, they refused and left the council. In their absence, other chiefs, without authority to speak for the departed bands, ceded lands. Those that did not sign—such as the Wallowa Band—became known as the “non-treaty” Nez Perce.



B Wallowa, Oregon

From Lostine, OR, continue on OR-82 for 7.9 miles to Wallowa, OR.

Tensions between settlers and the Nez Perce ran highest when the Joseph Band came to their summer camp at “Indian Town” near Wallowa. The first council between the two sides was held on August 14, 1872, near where the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers meet. Both sides believed the land was theirs.

“It seemed to me that some of the white men in Wallowa were doing these things on purpose to get up a war.”

– Hinmatóowyalahtq’it (Chief Joseph)

Nez Perce Homeland Project

The 320-acre site is referred to as “Tick Hill,” which refers to the cliff behind the pow wow grounds. The upper site, with a roofed gazebo and views of the Wallowa Valley, can be accessed by a marked trail.

Tamkaliks Celebration of Native American Culture (Nez Perce Homeland Project)

A 3-day event is held annually in mid-July to celebrate the continuing Nez Perce presence in the Wallowa Valley.

Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center

209 East Second Street.

For summer hours, or to arrange a visit by appointment, please go to wallowanezperce.org or call (541) 886-3101.



Nez Perce Homeland Project
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

⑥ Minam, Oregon

Continue on OR-82 for 13.2 miles to Minam, OR.

Traditionally, Minam Hill marked the westernmost boundary of the Wallowa Band's territory, as well as that of the entire Nez Perce people. As the highway crosses the river, the Minam River flows into the Wallowa River on the south side of the bridge. This excellent hay country supported the Nez Perce herds of thousands of horses and cattle.

"Inside this boundary, all our people were born. It circles around the graves of our fathers, and will never give up these graves to any man."

– Hinmatóowyahtq'it (Chief Joseph)

Máamin

The máamin (Appaloosa horse) known for its colorful, spotted coat patterns, is a Nez Perce legacy. Horses reached the Nez Perce in about 1730, coming to America by way of Spain, then Mexico. Horses thrived in the rich grasslands of the Wallowa Valley where the Nez Perce practiced selective breeding. The various Nez Perce bands could be easily recognized at a distance from the color of their ponies, as each favored a particular color of horse. The Nez Perce continue to be among the most prominent breeders of the Appaloosa.

"They are so consistently on horseback that they seem to be almost part of the animal. You can tell them at great distances by the ease and grace of their arms as, in Indian style, they carry the whip up and down."

– General Oliver O. Howard



Brooke Taylor astride an Appaloosa
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

As you travel this country, reflect upon the how the land has changed and how it has stayed the same.

To return to the Mainstream Traveler route, follow Oregon State Highway 82 east for 31 miles back to Enterprise, OR, and join the Mainstream Route on the next page.

⑧ Joseph Canyon Viewpoint, Oregon

From the Nez Perce monument west of Enterprise, OR, travel back to Enterprise along Oregon State Highway 82 for 0.9 miles. Turn left onto Oregon State Highway 3 / Lewiston - Enterprise Highway and continue for 28.8 miles to a turn out on the east side of the highway.



Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

Nez Perce called this area *saqánma*, which means "long, rough canyon." This dramatic viewpoint on Oregon State Highway 3, about 38 miles north of Enterprise, shows where families of the Wallowa Band made their winter camps at the confluence of Joseph Creek and the Grande Ronde River.



Joseph Canyon Overlook, Oregon
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

9 Asotin, Washington

From the Joseph Canyon Overlook, continue north on Oregon State Highway 3 / Lewiston - Enterprise Highway for 13.4 miles. Here you will enter Washington and continue north on Washington State Highway 129 for 36.3 miles to Asotin, WA.

Nez Perce called the creek that flows into the Snake River near present day Asotin, Washington, *Héesutine*, or “eel creek.” This was the winter camp of Chief Looking Glass’s “non-treaty” band. Asotin, Washington is six miles south of Clarkston, Washington. River boat trips are available from here.



Grande Ronde River, Washington
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

Hells Canyon Visitors Center

2535 Riverside Drive Clarkston, WA 99403 (509) 758-0616

Visitor information, Nez Perce maps and books as well as tourist brochures are available.

Chief Looking Glass Park

This 17-acre park five miles south of Clarkston, WA, honors Chief Looking Glass, a Nez Perce Chief and warrior who died in the Bear Paw Battle.

Like Chief Joseph, Chief Looking Glass (‘Elélimyete’qenin’) favored the return of the “non-treaty” bands to the reservation, and even after the encounter with General Howard’s troops in White Bird Canyon, he strove to avoid war.

10 Lewiston, Idaho

From Asotin, WA, continue north on Washington State Highway 129 for 4.4 miles. Take the exit to Lewiston and turn left onto the Southway Bridge to enter Idaho. Take the first exit from the Southway Bridge and turn right onto Snake River Avenue. In 0.5 miles take a right onto Southway Avenue. In 0.7 miles continue onto 16th Avenue for 1 mile to 21st Street.

In 1860, gold was discovered in Pierce, Idaho, sixty miles east of here, setting the stage for white encroachment in the area. In 1862, the town of Lewiston sprang up at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers as a trading and supply depot for the mines within the Nez Perce Reservation.

Although the fleeing non-treaty Nez Perce never came closer than 40 miles of Lewiston, the settlers were apprehensive during the summer of 1877. People in the Pullman-Moscow area, 30 miles north of here, built stockades believing they were on the brink of an Indian uprising.



Rattlesnake Grade, Washington
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

11 Spalding, Idaho

From Lewiston, ID, take 21st Avenue north for 0.8 miles. Turn right onto U.S. Highway 12 E for 8.4 miles. Turn right onto U.S. Highway 95 S and continue for 1.9 miles to the Nez Perce National Historical Park in Spalding, ID.

Originally called Lapwai, this area served as a traditional homesite for over 11,000 years to the *Thlep-thlep-weyma* Band of Nez Perce. Each summer the people moved to higher elevations to hunt, fish and gather wild foods, returning each fall for the salmon 'run' on the Clearwater River.

Nez Perce National Historical Park

This park features a Nez Perce exhibit hall, video theatre, gift shop, travel information, and a historic walking trail.



Terry O'Halloran - National Park Service

12 Fort Lapwai, Idaho

From the Nez Perce National Historical Park in Spalding take U.S. Highway 95 south for 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Agency Drive. In 0.2 miles turn left onto A Street. The Fort Lapwai Officers Quarters are at the end of the block on your right.

In 1863, U.S. Army troops were assigned to the Lapwai Valley in response to the gold rush. The fort they built was in use from 1863-1885. It was here that General Howard met with the leaders of "non-treaty" Nez Perce bands on May 3-15, 1877, as they made one last attempt to remain on their land.



Officers Quarters, Fort Lapwai, Idaho
© Jerry Bauer

This building is one of the few surviving structures from Fort Lapwai. It is owned by the Nez Perce Tribe and interpreted by the Nez Perce National Historical Park.



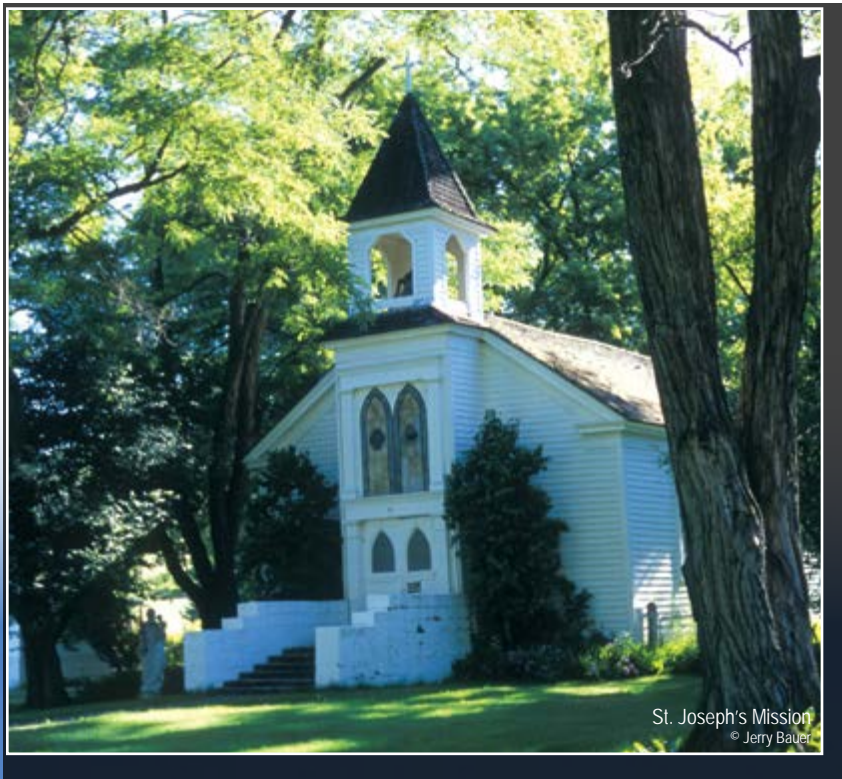
Clearwater River at Spalding, Idaho
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

13 St. Joseph's Mission, Idaho

From the Fort Lapwai Officers Quarters, head North on A Street and take the first right onto Agency Drive. Turn right onto U.S. Highway 95 S and continue for 6 miles. Turn right onto Mission Creek Road and continue for 4 miles. St. Joseph's Mission will be on the left.

Dedicated on September 8, 1874 by Father Joseph Cataldo, this was the first Roman Catholic Mission among the Nez Perce.

This building is now privately owned and is not open to the public. It is a component of the Nez Perce National Historical Park and it has an interpretive panel in front.



14 Cottonwood, Idaho

From St. Joseph's Mission, return to U.S. Highway 95 by travelling north on Mission Creek Road for 4 miles. Turn right onto U.S. Highway 95 S and continue for 36.5 miles to Cottonwood, ID. If you wish to visit Cottonwood turn right onto Main Street into Cottonwood.

In June 1877, Cottonwood House (a hotel, saloon, and store) was the only commercial establishment in town. The proprietor, Benjamin Norton, was killed in the Cottonwood Skirmish, along with four other white settlers. They were all buried at the Mount Idaho Cemetery.

15 Cottonwood Wayside

From Cottonwood, ID, continue south on U.S. Highway 95 S for 1.5 miles and turn left at the Cottonwood Wayside.

This one-acre rest stop at Milepost 253 near Cottonwood, Idaho, commemorates the fight between 17 volunteers and a party of Nez Perce warriors that left 2 volunteers dead on July 5, 1877.



16 Tolo Lake, Idaho

Note: This route is classified as an Adventure Route because the roads to Tolo lake are gravel but in generally good condition. To avoid this route, skip ahead to Auto Tour Site 17 on page 32.

From the Cottonwood Wayside, continue south on U.S. Highway 95 S for 6.9 miles and turn right onto Lake Road. Continue on Lake Road for 2.1 miles where you will cross John's Creek. The road changes to John's Creek Road at this point. Continue on John's Creek Road for 1 mile and turn left onto the Tolo Lake access road.



Tolo Lake, Idaho
© Jerry Bauer

Tolo Lake (*Tipáxliwam* “Split Rocks”) was the gathering spot for five “non-treaty” Nez Perce bands, more than 700 people, on June 2, 1877. The women dug camas bulbs, preparing for the winter food supply. It was a time for visiting with friends and relatives from other bands.

“During that spring, the Nez Perce gathered in camp at Camas Prairie...it came June and the Indians were having a good time gambling, horse-racing, and different sports.”

– *Lepít hísemtuks (Two Moons)*

By June 13, the chiefs were ready to move their people onto the reservation. Several young warriors, Wáalaytic (Shore Crossing), Sáapsis ’ilp’íl (Red Moccasin Tops) and Wetyétmes wehéyqt (Swan Necklace), incensed by past injustices at the hands of white settlers, left the encampment that night and carried out a series of raids on local settlements, killing a number of people. The chiefs were in council when they heard about the raids on the Salmon River settlers. Fearing retribution, the council ended abruptly as people and stock were gathered to depart.

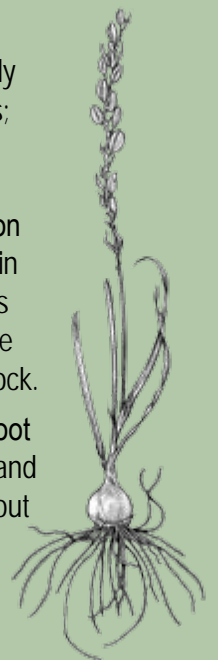
To continue on to Grangeville, ID, follow Tolo Lake Road back the way you came for 0.5 miles and take a right to stay on Tolo Lake Road. Continue on Tolo Lake Road for 2.4 miles. Turn left onto U.S. Highway 95 N and continue for 1.6 miles. Turn right onto W Main Street and follow for 0.5 miles to the intersection of Main Street and Hall Street.

Sustenance:

Nature provided the Niimiipuu with all of their daily needs: highly nutritious camas and biscuitroots; black lichen (hoopop), when baked, became a sweet treat; huckleberries and blackberries in summer; fish: salmon, steelhead, trout, sturgeon and lamprey; game animals: elk, deer, mountain sheep, and mountain goats; permanent springs on the high ridges, and perennial streams in the valleys; bunch grasses, ideal for grazing livestock.

This beautiful camas flower has an onion-like root that is delicious eaten raw, and when baked and dried provides a protein food source throughout the winter.

William & Wilma Follette. USDA NRCS. 1992.
Western wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species.
West Region, Sacramento, CA.
Courtesy of USDA NRCS Wetland Science Institute



17 White Bird, Idaho

From Grangeville, ID, head south on U.S. Highway 95 S for 12.7 miles to the turnout and the White Bird Overlook. The overlook shelter will be on your left as you head down the White Bird Grade.

The White Bird Overlook has an interpretive shelter above the site of the first battle between General Howard's troops and the "non-treaty" Nez Perce.

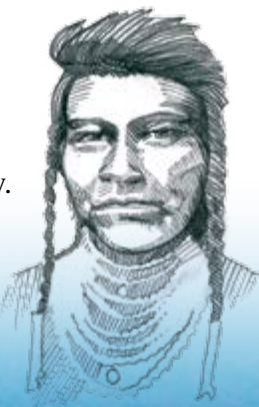
When news of the Salmon River killings reached Fort Lapwai, ninety cavalry men were dispatched to find the Nez Perce. After a 41-hour march they arrived at White Bird Hill and attempted to surprise the Nez Perce with an early morning attack.

"At 2 a.m. we were roused out of what little sleep we could catch in the saddle. We were near entering the White Bird Canyon to make a surprise attack on the Indians at daybreak. But let me state right here, we were to have the surprise of our lives."

— Sgt. John P. Schoor, 1st Cavalry

Four days earlier, after the council at Tolo Lake broke up, Chiefs Joseph, White Bird and Toohoolhoolzote agreed that they needed a safer area to gather their people. To this end, they moved their camp to Chief White Bird's village on the Salmon River. The location of the village at the base of the river canyon made it easier to defend.

The morning of the attack, the Nez Perce were well aware of the approaching Cavalry. Through a combination of good planning and guerrilla tactics, the Nez Perce were able to rout the tired and inexperienced Cavalry, killing 34 soldiers. Three Nez Perce warriors were slightly wounded.



Piyóop'yoo xayxáyx (Chief White Bird)
by Joe Guarisco

Hiking Opportunity: White Bird Battlefield:

Today, the battlefield provides an opportunity for those who wish to experience the area up close. Visitors can hike a 3 mile trail through the battlefield with interpretive signs detailing the battle along the route.

From the White Bird Overlook, continue south on U.S. Highway 95 S for 3.5 miles and turn left toward White Bird Road. In 0.4 miles turn right onto River Road and continue for 2 miles to the White Bird Battlefield trailhead.

Note: The round trip is about 3 miles with six stops along the trail. The trailhead is at 1,700 feet and climbs an additional 460 feet in elevation. Summer temperatures can reach over 100 degrees. Bring plenty of water. There are no bathrooms at this site.



There is an abundance of wildlife along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. All wild animals need to be treated with caution and respect. If you are planning to hike, check with the nearest land management agency for information on local wildlife. Know how to be safe in wild country.

A grave honoring one of the soldiers killed in this battle lies about 1 mile north, past the battlefield trailhead along River Road.

"The Soldier was an old gray-headed sergeant,... He was killed in as fair a duel as ever was fought... They were probably 15 paces apart; the sergeant would fire and fall back a few steps, the Indian would fire and advance. Each combatant must have fired four or five shots before the sergeant was hit and fell."

— Frank Fenn, Mt. Idaho Volunteer

18 Grangeville, Idaho

From the White Bird Overlook, travel north on U.S. Highway 95 N for 12.7 miles to Grangeville. Turn right onto Idaho State Highway 13 E / W Main Street. Follow W Main Street for 0.5 miles to the intersection of Main Street and Hall Street.

In 1877, Grange Hall (which stood at the corner of today's Main and Hall Streets) was the only building in sight. New settlers built a stockade around the hall for their protection.



Photo courtesy of WSU
L.V. McWhorter Collection

"I saw a baby wrapped in its tekash [cradleboard]... I reached down and handed it to the woman. The woman laughed as she took her baby. ... Riding fast, we soon overtook some of the rear Indians entering canyon [of Cottonwood Creek]... This woman with her little baby was Toma Alwawinimi [possibly meaning Springtime] wife of Chief Joseph. Her baby girl was born at Tipáxliwam [Tolo Lake] a few days before the White Bird Canyon battle."

– Hímiin maqsmáqs (Yellow Wolf)

Today's wheat fields were once covered with fields of blue camas lilies. Camas root was a major source of food for the Nez Perce.



Grangeville, Idaho
© Jerry Bauer

19 Clearwater Battlefield, Idaho

Follow Idaho State Highway 13 E out of Grangeville for 21.2 miles. On the west side of the highway there is a turnout with a historical marker designating the Clearwater Battlefield

By July 7, five "non-treaty" bands had gathered at this site near the South Fork of the Clearwater along Cottonwood Creek: Chief Looking Glass's Band, Chief Joseph's Wallowa Band, *Husishusis Kute's* Palouse Band, Chief White Bird's Salmon River Band, and *Toohoolhooltzote's* Band from the country between the Snake and Salmon rivers.

"The battle continued some hours. It must have been 10 o'clock, and soldier bullets still rained.... Our commanders were not scared of bullets, not afraid of death, but they fought fiercely.... Many fewer than 100 warriors met the hard fighting here."

– Hímiin maqsmáqs (Yellow Wolf)



Near the Clearwater Battlefield, Idaho
Roger Peterson - USDA / Forest Service

On July 11, one of General Howard's aides, Lieutenant Robert Fletcher, discovered the large encampment of the "non-treaty" Nez Perce at Cottonwood Creek. The soldiers fired a cannon on the unsuspecting Nez Perce. The Nez Perce warriors traveled quickly to the top of the ridge where the battle occurred. The Nez Perce warriors, excellent marksmen, fought fiercely. But in the end the Nez Perce were driven from their camp.

20 Stites, Idaho

From the Clearwater Battlefield marker, continue on Idaho State Highway 13 for 1.1 miles to Stites, ID.

The Nez Perce traditionally used two routes to cross the Bitterroot Mountains into Montana: the *k'useyneisskit* (Road to the Buffalo) – Lolo Trail and the *kise'iskit* (Camping Trail) – Southern Nez Perce Trail, which begins here and ends in Conner, Montana.

21 Kooskia, Idaho

From Stites, ID, continue on Idaho, State Highway 13 for 4 miles, through Kooskia, ID, to the junction of Idaho State Highway 13 and Idaho State Highway 12. There is a turnout on the left with a visitors information kiosk.

Kooskia, at the eastern edge of the Nez Perce Reservation, has a visitor's kiosk where murals tell the story of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877.

After the raids on the Salmon River, the Tolo Lake council broke up and Chief Looking Glass led his band back to their home village near present day Kooskia, Idaho, hoping to avoid conflict with the U. S. Army. This village was on the reservation so he and his people were abiding by the treaty. General Howard, however, believed that Looking Glass intended to join with the “non-treaty” bands and so...



“With a view of preventing the completion of this treachery, I sent Captain Whipple, commanding his own and Winter’s companies, and the Gatling guns, with instructions to make a forced march, surprise and capture this chief and all that belonged to him.”

*– General Oliver O. Howard,
August 27, 1877*

As the U.S. Army approached, Chief Looking Glass raised a white flag and tried to parley with Captain Stephen Whipple. The negotiations had hardly begun when some soldiers opened fire. The unprovoked attack convinced Chief Looking Glass that there was no way peace could be had and so he resolved to join with the other “non-treaty” Nez Perce bands.



*‘Elelmyete’genin’ - Chief Looking Glass
by Roger Cooke*

Notes

Nez Perce National Historic Trail Auto Tours

See the Auto Tour brochure for each trail segment indicated on the map below for specific route information.



1 Wallowa Valley, Oregon, to Kooskia, Idaho

2 Orofino, Idaho to Lolo, Montana

3 Lolo, Montana, to the Big Hole National Battlefield, Montana, through the Bitterroot Valley

4 Big Hole, Horse Prairie and Lemhi Valleys

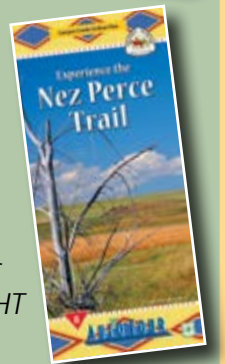
5 Leadore, Idaho, to Yellowstone National Park, Montana

6 Through Yellowstone National Park

7 Yellowstone National Park to Canyon Creek, Montana

8 Canyon Creek to Bear Paw

Auto Tour Brochures are available at local visitor centers, from the NPNHT Staff or from the NPNHT website at www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/



For an interactive Google Earth virtual tour of the trail please visit the Nez Perce Trail Foundation website at www.nezperctrail.net

This Trail is a Sacred Trust for All Americans

“We, the surviving Nez Perces, want to leave our hearts, memories, hallowed presence as a never-ending revelation to the story of the event of 1877. These trails will live in our hearts.

We want to thank all who visit these sacred trails, that they will share our innermost feelings. Because their journey makes this an important time for the present, past and future.”

– Frank B. Andrews, Nez Perce descendant

For more information on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail visit on the Web at www.fs.usda.gov/npnht or contact:

Nez Perce
National Historic Trail
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-8334
npnht@fs.fed.us

Nez Perce National
Historical Park
39063 US Hwy 95
Spalding, ID 83540
(208) 843-7001
www.nps.gov/nepe

Nez Perce Trail Foundation
www.nezperctrail.net

The Confederated Tribes of
the Colville Reservation
(509) 634-2200
www.colvilletribes.com

Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation
(541) 276-3165
www.ctuir.org

Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540
(208) 843-2253
www.nezperce.org

BLM Cottonwood
Field Office
1 Butte Dr
Cottonwood, ID 83522
(208) 962-3245
www.blm.gov/id

Hells Gate State Park
5100 Hells Gate Rd.
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-5015
www.parksand recreation.idaho.gov

Kooskia National
Fish Hatchery
318 Toll Rd
Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4272
www.fws.gov/kooskia

Nez Perce-Clearwater
National Forest Staff Office
903 3rd Street,
Kamiah, ID 83544
(208) 476-4541
www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater

Tamástslíkt Cultural
Institute
Wildhorse Blvd
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 966-9748
www.tamastslíkt.org

Wallowa Band Nez Perce
Trail Interpretive Center
209 East Second St.
Wallowa, OR 97885
(541) 886-3101
www.wallowanezperce.org

Wallowa Lake State Park
72214 Marina Ln,
Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 432-4185
www.oregonstateparks.org

Wallowa Mountains
Wallowa Valley Ranger District
Eagle Cap Ranger District
Hells Canyon National
Recreation Area
201 East Second Street
PO Box 905
Joseph, OR 97846
(541) 426-5546
www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman



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