

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

Progress Report

March, 1995

From the NPNHT Coordinator

Decades of dedication and hard work by many Nez Perce National Historic Trail supporters culminated in the official trail dedication in July 1991. That ceremony at Lolo Pass celebrated completion of the Comprehensive Management Plan. Today, just four years later, the entire trail is the scene of rapid action as dozens of projects turn dreams into reality. This is an exciting time! Some of these efforts will be highlighted in this progress report.

The scope and variety of projects already underway is impressive. Among the more exciting is the addition of 14 critically important historical sites to Nez Perce National Historical Park; completion of a trailwide interagency interpretive strategy; traveling display; and progress on a promotional brochure and video. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service have begun detailed mapping and marking of high potential trail segments. Roadside and trailside interpretive exhibits are being planned and built. Examples include Howard Creek and Fort Fizzle signs soon to be in place on the Lolo Forest, the Bitterroot Forest auto tour brochure, and signing on the Beaverhead Forest at Trail Creek.

The National Register of Historic Places has established a more accurate boundary for the Lolo Trail section of the NPNHT.

Last year, 1994, truly marked a transition from "planning" to "doing" for the partners and agencies entrusted with stewardship of this nationally significant historical resource.

Our success in preserving, developing and managing the Trail depends largely on how we - Nez Perce Tribe, Federal and State agencies, scholars, private land owners, and individuals - work together. Sharing information will be key.

Michael R. Beckes
NPNHT Coordinator
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, Montana
59807



NPNHT Foundation Accepting Members

After much hard work, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation has received its nonprofit status and is soliciting members. The Foundation originated when the NPNHT Advisory Committee disbanded upon completion of the Comprehensive Management Plan. The Advisory Committee members decided their work wasn't done and organized the Foundation.

According to Harry Fritz, President, the Foundation exists to promote sensitive development of the NPNHT on-the-ground and to further interpretation of historic events along this significant Trail. The Foundation hopes to:

- > Inform members of Trail conditions and plans for development and interpretation. Through a bi-annual newsletter members will receive updates of new findings, current events, meetings, field trips, and more.

- > Assist the Nez Perce Tribe, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state and local agencies and organizations to implement the Comprehensive Plan for the NPNHT.

- > Help educate members and the public about the Trail's significance in relation to the conflicts resulting from encroachment of white settlers onto traditional Nez Perce homelands during the 1800s.

For information, write to:
Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation
P.O. Box 20197
Missoula, MT 59801

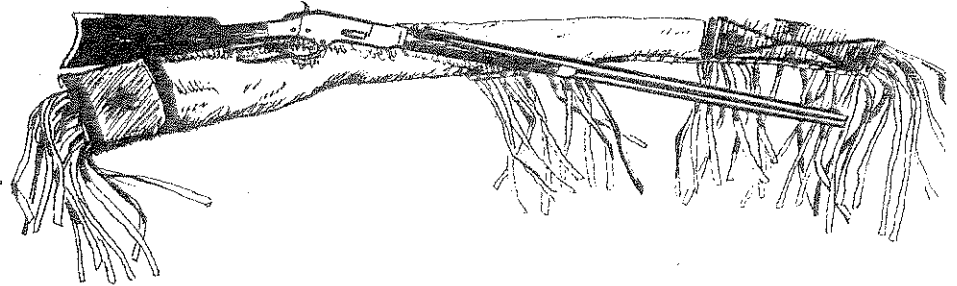
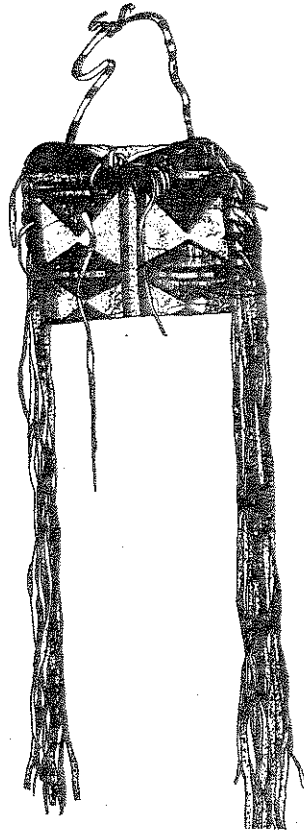
Clearinghouse

In our role as coordinating agency for the NPNHT, Region One of the Forest Service will maintain official records such as: legal description of Trail location, map atlas of segments and sites, current mailing list, cooperative agreements and copies of current legislation.

We eventually plan serve as a clearinghouse, providing "one-stop shopping" for other kinds of information helpful to trail partners:

- Clip art and video archive
- Annotated bibliography
- News media clippings
- List of trail experts
- Locations of reference collections

The Clearinghouse cannot duplicate the excellent materials already available in university libraries, Nez Perce Tribal files and at the Nez Perce National Historical Park. We hope, however, to guide inquiries to the right sources and help make the search easier. It will take time to make the Clearinghouse a reality, and the entire Trail community must help make it a useful tool. We can only share what others have contributed.



Let Us Hear From You!!

To add names to the mailing list, offer comments, or submit information or line art for the Clearinghouse, contact:

NPNHT Clearinghouse
 USDA Forest Service
 Northern Region, WRHP
 PO Box 7669
 Missoula, MT 59807
 (406) 329-3227

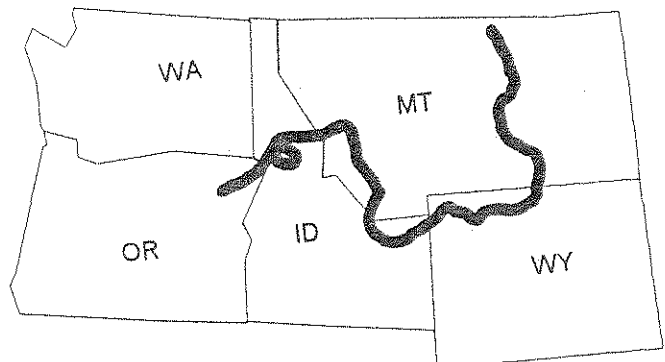
1995 Trail Overview

The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated Nez Perce National Historic Trail management to the Regional Forester of the Northern Region, who has further delegated it to the Director of Wilderness, Recreation and Heritage Programs. Actual day-to-day tasks required to carry out the Comprehensive Management Plan are assigned to the Regional Archeologist, Mike Beckes, and Regional Interpretive Specialist, Keith Thurlkill.

Management extends beyond National Forest boundaries onto other public and private lands along the Trail, and thus requires the cooperation of many partners. Fortunately, a spirit of cooperation continues to grow.

Development of the "high potential segments" and historic sites on public lands are underway. These sites may be marked within the next few years, as funding and emphasis remain strong.

A new emphasis begun in 1995 is the process of establishing and marking a driving tour route on State and County highways so that travelers may more easily retrace the entire Trail and enjoy those NPNHT sites developed for public use. This effort will require extensive coordination between Federal, State and local agencies, and will take at least three years to complete.



NPS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR NPNHP GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nez Perce National Historical Park has begun long term planning for the thirty-eight units now comprising the Park. Required by law, the General Management Plan (GMP) ensures that long range goals and planned actions at the park are consistent with purposes established by Congress: protection of park resources and providing for appropriate visitor use.

A GMP sets forth the basic management philosophy for units of the National Park System. It provides strategies for addressing issues and achieving management objectives over a 15-20 year period. Two types of strategies are presented in the GMP: those required to properly manage park resources, and those required to provide appropriate visitor use and interpretation.

Public involvement is key in preparing a GMP. Throughout the planning process there will be many opportunities for public input.

Public meetings began in January and will continue through February 17. In addition, written comments and phone messages will be accepted until March 1, 1995. Below is a list of meetings scheduled for the Oregon/Washington and Montana Units:

Oregon/Washington Unit

- 2/6 - Nespelam, WA. - Nez Perce Longhouse - 7-9 p.m.
 2/7 - Mission, OR. - Yellowhawk Conference Rm. (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) - 7-9 p.m.
 2/8 - Wallowa, OR. - Wallowa Senior Center - 7-9 p.m.
 2/9 - Joseph, OR. - Joseph Comm. Center - 1-3 p.m.
 2/9 - Enterprise, OR. - Cloverleaf Hall - 7-9 p.m.
 Contact: Paul Henderson
 (503) 432-9452

Montana Unit

- 2/13 - Darby - Elementary School - 7-9 p.m.
 2/14 - Wisdom - Community Bldg. - 7-9 p.m.
 2/15 - Dubois - Community Center - 1-3 p.m.
 2/15 - Dillon - Courthouse Multipurpose Rm. - 7-9 p.m.
 Contact: Sue Buchel
 (406) 689-3155

- 2/16 - Chinook - Senior Citizens Center - 7-9 p.m.
 2/17 - Laurel - City Council Chambers - 7-9 p.m.
 Contact: Otis Halfmoon
 (406) 357-3130

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK EXPANDS

In October, 1992, Congress added fourteen additional historic sites in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana to Nez Perce National Historical Park. This expands the Park to thirty-eight sites, which now encompass the entire length of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail from its beginning at Wallowa Lake, OR to its end at Bear Paw Battlefield, MT.

According to Frank Walker, Park Superintendent, planning for all new sites has begun and immediate steps are being taken to improve access and interpretation. Park staff has been added at Wallowa Lake and Bear Paw Battlefield to work with local communities, increase management presence and conduct interpretive programs. The Nez Perce Tribe hosted five special ceremonies in 1993 to recognize the importance of these Park additions:

Oregon sites: *The Joseph Canyon Viewpoint*, the traditional wintering grounds of the Wallowa Nez Perce in and around Joseph Canyon. *Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite* is a key site for interpreting the lifestyle and

culture of the Wallowa Nez Perce, their close ties to the Umatilla and Cayuse tribes, and events that led to the Nez Perce War of 1877. *Traditional Campsite*, at the Historic Junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers, is near the site where Old Chief Joseph died in 1871. *Dug Bar*, in Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, was a traditional river crossing and probable crossing point for Joseph's Band in 1877.

Washington sites: *Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger* sets the stage for interpreting the final chapter of the Joseph band's odyssey from the Wallowa Country to exile in Indian Territory and life on the Colville Reservation. *Nez Perce Campsites* have been identified as the last campsites of Chief Joseph the Younger and illustrate the perpetuation of traditional seasonal movement from high to low ground.

Idaho sites: *Tolo Lake* includes the ancient council site, Tepahlewam, where the nontreaty bands met just before they had to move to the Nez Perce Reservation. *Looking Glass's 1877 Campsite* was the site of Howard's July 1, 1877 attack which led Looking Glass to join the warring

bands. *Camas Meadow Battle Site* was an important turning point in the campaign. Here, General Howard lost considerable momentum when the Nez Perce scattered and took some of his mules. *Hasotino Village Site* was one of the largest villages on the Snake River, occupied until the end of the 19th century. *Buffalo Eddy* contains densely-grouped clusters of petroglyphs associated with prehistoric Nez Perce culture, and extends to the Washington side of the river.

Montana sites: *Big Hole National Battlefield*, long an independent NPS unit, is now officially part of Nez Perce National Historical Park. *Canyon Creek* was the site of successful Nez Perce rearguard actions just north of the Yellowstone River. Due to its proximity to Billings and the Interstate, it has potential as an interpretive site. *Bear Paw Battleground* is the site of the brutal six day siege which ended the 1877 war, and where Chief Joseph and those Nez Perce remaining with him, surrendered. As the site of the Chief Joseph's stirring surrender, Bear Paw is one of the most significant sites associated with the Nez Perce retreat.

What's New On The Trail ?



Forest Service

Beaverhead National Forest

A new interpretive sign was installed at Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center to orient visitors to the Trail segment on the Beaverhead National Forest. It was designed to coordinate with an existing NPS sign and tape message.

The Beaverhead has begun a new brochure that will interpret traditional travel routes and interTribal relations, including trade, hunting, mutual support and protection. The brochure will also discuss events occurring throughout southwest Montana at the time of the Nez Perce flight of freedom.

Trail markers were distributed to the Dillon District, as well as the Leadore Ranger District in Idaho. The Wisdom Ranger District has Trail markers up and will add more along the auto tour route. Work is underway to mark the entire segment.

In 1993, Christopher Hagelin, a graduate student in history, researched the Trail segment from Gibbon's Pass to Skinner Meadows. His report includes history, original quotes for potential use, and literature for the on-the-ground route.

This past summer, Dan Gard, a graduate student in historical archaeology, researched the Trail from Skinner Meadows to Leadore, ID. His report details the events and movements of the participants through the Big Hole, Horse Prairie and Lemhi Valleys. Information from both reports will be used in an interpretive brochure for self-guided auto tours.

Contact: Mike Ryan
(406) 392-3932

Clearwater National Forest

Eight entrance station signs were purchased by the Clearwater. These signs discuss various aspects of the Lolo Trail and its environs. Four of the signs are for Musselshell, Parachute Hill, Saddle Camp, and Canyon Junction entrance stations. These signs are scheduled for installation this spring.

Lewis and Clark signs on the Lolo Trail were taken down and a new framework built, including one for the "Bridge across the Bitterroots" signs, located at either end of the Trail.

Contact: Chuck Raddon
(208) 476-4541

Shoshone National Forest

The Forest plans to mark the NPNHT sections in 1995. The Forest will develop the Dead Indian Hill to Bannock segment, and work on Clark Fork Canyon projects with BLM. Work is also underway to accurately interpret the story behind the name "Dead Indian Hill."

Contacts: Bill Puckett
(307) 527-6921
Lyle Hancock
(307) 754-7207

Bitterroot National Forest

The Bitterroot has developed an auto tour brochure encompassing the Fort Fizzle to Big Hole National Battlefield segment of the NPNHT. The finished 8 page brochure will measure 8 1/2" by 5 1/2" in size.

Sula Ranger District has marked its segment of Trail with new markers. In addition, trailhead improvements have been made and ecosystem management is being conducted to restore the area to its historic landscape.

Contact: Marcia Cross
(406) 363-7183

Lolo National Forest

The Fort Fizzle Site has a new three-panel interpretive sign (see illustration on page 8) and a reconstructed breastworks and rifle pit. Four more interpretive signs are under contract. The Lolo has worked productively with Nez Perce and Salish and Kootenai Tribal Governments and elders on these interpretive efforts.

Howard Creek has a new three-panel signpost up, with text scheduled for completion by this summer. The text will interpret the Lolo Trail and its prehistoric use over time, the Lewis and Clark Trail, and the Nez Perce Trail. An interpretive trail and brochure for Howard Creek are scheduled for completion this spring.

A panel describing wildlife and the Lewis and Clark expedition will be placed at the Lewis and Clark Campground this summer.

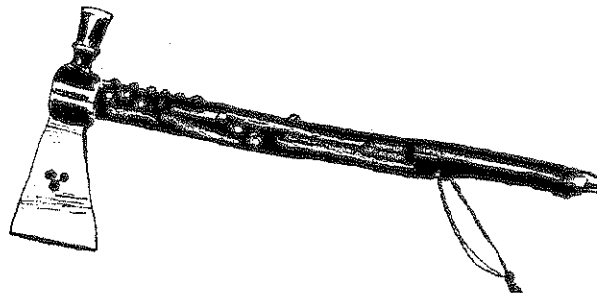
Contact: Milo McLeod
(406) 329-3853

Region One Headquarters

Dan Gard, a graduate student in historical archaeology, has been hired on a temporary assignment to help coordinate information pertaining to the NPNHT. Dan will assist in design of publications, develop a master Nez Perce Trail file, and gather information pertaining to state and federal highway signing.

In addition, Wendy Young, a recent graduate in anthropology from the University of Montana, is volunteering 8 hours per week to assist in various NPNHT projects.

Contact: Dan Gard
(406) 329-3479





NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Nez Perce Country Strategy

Over 40 participants from the agencies and Tribe met in Lewiston, ID in October 1993 to develop a "Nez Perce Country Strategy" for interpretation of Nez Perce history and culture. The group agreed there are many benefits to a coordinated approach to research and interpretation and tourism.

Representatives from seven core Federal agencies and the Nez Perce Tribe continue to meet periodically to identify projects of common interest. For more information contact:

Art Hathaway
Spalding Unit Manager
(208) 843-2261

NPNHP Library

The Nez Perce National Historical Park library is operated and maintained by the Cultural Resource Division of the NPNHP. The library collection supports the primary and secondary themes of the NPNHP, which are:

- Nez Perce culture - prehistoric and historic.
- Nez Perce contact with missionaries and the Christian influence on their life patterns.
- The Nez Perce War of 1877.
- The effect of European and American commercial ventures upon the Nez Perce and their country.
- The relationship of these factors to westward expansion in the United States.
- Natural resource management of areas associated with Nez Perce history.

The collection consists of approximately 3000 items, including books, dissertations, reports, periodicals, reprints, videos, tapes, microforms and maps.

Contact: Chrisanne Brown
(208) 843-2261 ext. 42

Big Hole National Battlefield

Big Hole National Battlefield has a new Unit Manager. Sue Buchel, formerly Cultural Resource Specialist at Nez Perce National Historical Park, took over her duties at Big Hole last July. Sue also has with oversight responsibility for Bear Paw, Canyon Creek, and Camas Meadows sites.

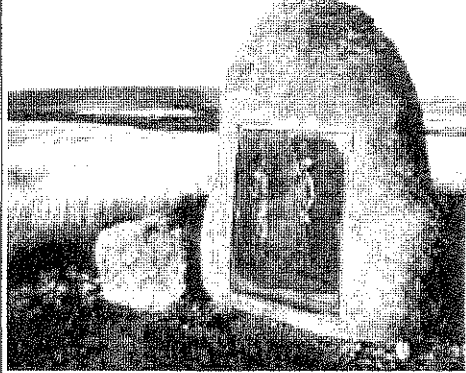
Contact: Sue Buchel
(406) 689-3155

Bear Paw Battlefield

Otis Halfmoon arrived in August as the first permanent ranger assigned to Bear Paw Battlefield. Otis comes to Bear Paw from Big Horn Canyon N.R.A. Prior to that he spend three years at the Big Hole National Battlefield.

An NPS office has been established at Chinook, Montana, in the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. In addition to information available at the NPS office, the Blaine County Museum is showing a video of the Bear Paw Battlefield.

Monument at Bear Paw Battlefield



On Sunday, October 9, 1994, the National Park Service hosted a memorial walk of the Bear Paw Battlefield to commemorate the historic battle between Nez Perce bands and the military. Members of the Joseph band of Nez Perce from Nespelem, Washington, the Lapwai VFW Post from the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho, and Nez Perce people living on the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon, led this walk. A pipe ceremony, conducted by the Assiniboine/Gros Ventre people of the Fort Belknap Reservation, preceded the memorial walk.

Contact: Otis Halfmoon
(406) 357-3130

Canyon Creek

This site will be jointly developed by the NPS, Friends of Canyon Creek and the BLM, with ISTE/CTEP funding.

As currently envisioned, interpretation will include a self-service interpretive station, and interpretation of Calamity Jane Butte and Pompey's Pillar.

Contact: Mike Bloehm
(406) 628-3219

News from Wallowa

Paul Henderson is the manager of the Oregon/Washington Unit of the Nez Perce National Historical Park. Paul comes to the northwest from Petroglyph's National Monument near Albuquerque, New Mexico. He works closely with communities, the Nez Perce people, and state and federal agencies to ensure smooth functioning of new park units in Oregon and Washinton. An important aspect of his position is to assure appropriate site development and interpretation.

Contact: Paul Henderson
(503) 432-9452

MUSEUM NEWS...

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT FORT MISSOULA

The museum staff developed a Fort Fizzle and Nez Perce War education kit for elementary school children, grades 4-8. All items in the kit are quality reproductions and the Museum is looking for additional items, particularly those associated with the Nez Perce. The kit includes a script for acting out the events at Fort Fizzle, a map exercise, and clothing the kids can wear to represent both Nez Perce, and militiamen (depending on class size).

Contact: Bob Brown
(406) 728-347





BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Worland District

Projects on the Worland district include: Clark Fork Canyon/Exit route interpretive sign and site located at the mouth of the Canyon. This project will be carried out in cooperation with the BLM and USFS.

A Bannock/NPNHT interpretive site south of Clark, WY. will include a Bannock/Bennett Battlefield interpretive effort that will relate the significance of three events: the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce, the Bannock War, and the Custer battle of 1876.

Edelweiss Roadhouse, located along WY Highway 20, serves as a portal to the Trail in the Cody area. Edelweiss has a routed interpretive sign about the NPNHT that was done by a local Boy Scout troop.

Contact: Bob Dieli
(307) 587-2216

Lewistown District

The Lewistown District's Missouri River Floater's Guide will include the route of the Nez Perce. A Kiosk shows the Nez Perce Trail through this area. Cow Creek is in a Wilderness Study area.

A booklet titled, "Missouri Breaks National Backcountry Byway", (see cover at right) follows the NPNHT for approximately 20 miles and includes a vista point and Wilderness information. The booklet was produced cooperatively between the Lewistown District BLM, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS, and Fergus County, Montana. This booklet is free of charge and available locally.

Contact: Clark Whitehead
(406) 538-7461

PROMOTIONAL AIDS

NPNHT Display Available

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail display is available for loan. This 8'X10' free-standing exhibit consists of colorful maps, graphics, and historic information on the Nez Perce Trail. This display is perfect for meetings, fairs, visitor centers and schools. It was popular last year so reserve it early.

NPNHT Brochures

The interim NPNHT brochure has been reprinted, and 65,000 copies were distributed to agencies along the trail. These should be readily available from most FS, NPS and BLM offices along the trail, but if you can't find them we have a few to meet special needs.

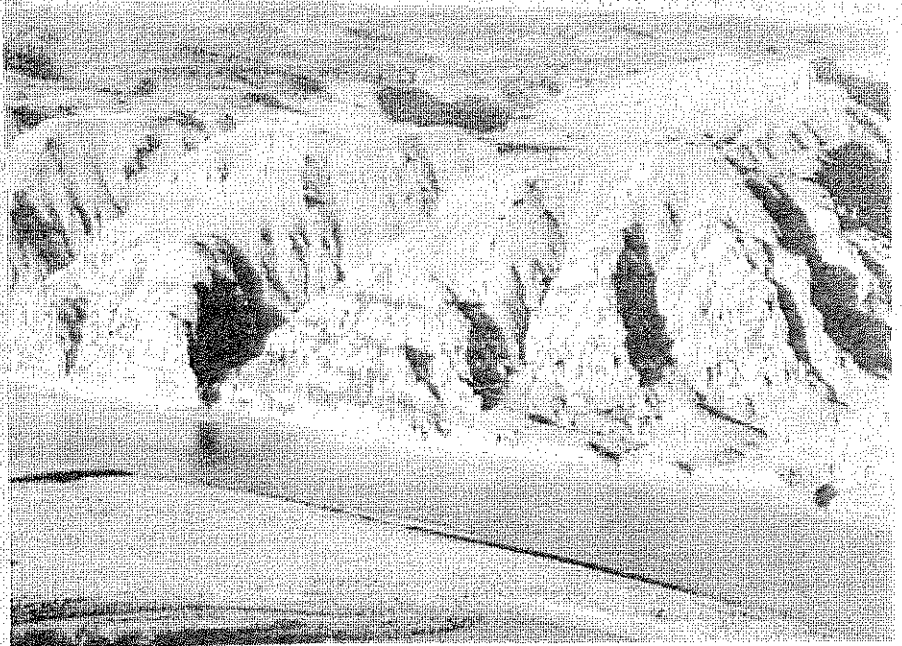
NPNHT Video

This 20 minute program retraces the entire route of the trail and encourages public participation. Many reviewers, including the Nez Perce Tribe Executive Comm ittee have reviewed the draft video which is undergoing revisions. Watch for it!

Contact: Mike Beckes

MISSOURI BREAKS

National Back Country Byway



Lewistown District
Bureau of Land Management

NPNHT LOGO TO BE RE-EXAMINED

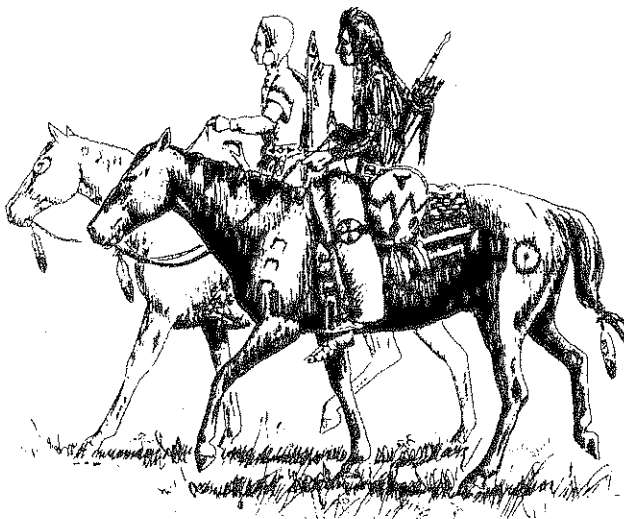
The official Nez Perce National Historic Trail Logo was adopted in the 1990 Comprehensive NPNHT Management Plan following review by Tribal, Federal and State agencies, and private interests. Since then, some people have expressed concern about accuracy of details in the Logo artwork. The Forest Service, as Trail administrator, is committed to making the logo as accurate as possible and will consider revisions this year. Until revised, the existing Logo will stay in use.

The existing logo was selected to symbolize: The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Trail was more than the route of the 1877 flight. Families, men and women, have followed it over the centuries to hunt and trade. The Trail commemorates the movement of people during peace and war. The Trail symbol is simple in outline so to be readily recognizable on highway signs.

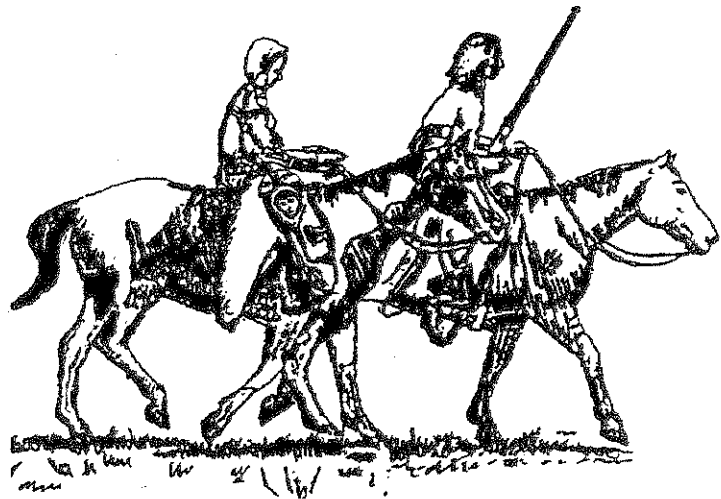
A few of the comments received to date:

- The woman's cradleboard would more likely hang over the pommel or on the pommel hook rather than on her back.
- The feather on the horse's tail may be too low. Women's horses did not use face paint or feathers.
- Not every Nez Perce wore his or her hair the same way. In general, women wore their hair parted down the middle and braided. Nez Perce men commonly wore a pompadour, a lock of hair extended from temple to temple and parted from the temples back to the side along the crown of the head. As drawn, the man's pompadour looks a little high.
- The saddles that were surrendered at the end of the Nez Perce flight included many different styles. Men and women used traditional or Indian-made saddles, cowboy and Mexican saddles, along with non-Nez Perce bits, bridles and ropes.
- Nez Perce men would have likely carried rifles rather bows and arrows.

We need your specific suggestions for portraying historic details in the artwork. What changes would you recommend to improve accuracy? Please send comments to Forest Service Region One as soon as possible but no later than May 1, 1995.



Current NPNHT Logo based on this drawing



One of many possible concepts

Fort Fizzle Interpretive Signs - Lolo N.F.



Framework for the new Fort Fizzle interpretive panels was installed this past summer. In addition, a replica of the log breastworks is now in place and ready for signing. The interpretation at this site will incorporate the perspectives of all groups involved, including the Nez Perce, regular Army, and citizen volunteers. The Lolo Forest plans to install the Fort Fizzle interpretive panels (shown above) this spring.

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