

'Iskitpe



A Publication of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Volume 4, Issue 5

Sexnín (Fall) 2004

OUR NEW LOGO

After several years of using a modified version of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail logo that marks the federally designated trail, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation has a new logo. Designed by Nez Perce tribal artist Sarah Penney, the logo uses traditional symbolic images used in Nez Perce baskets, beadwork, and other traditional and contemporary art forms. Borrowing the image of the Nez Perce people on horseback from the official trail logo, the new Foundation logo also incorporates geometric shapes to represent important aspects of the Nez Perce Outbreak and War of 1877. The riders represent the hundreds of Nez Perce men, women, and children, along with their livestock, who traveled over 1,170 miles across present-day Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming in search of a new place to call home after they were forcefully removed from their traditional homelands. The two mountains represent the Bitterroot Range and the larger Rocky Mountains that the Nez Perce traversed during their four-month journey of hardship, victories, and defeat by the U.S. Army. The seven vertical black/red bars along the bottom represent the seven significant battles and skirmishes of the Nez Perce War: the White Bird Canyon Battle, the Clearwater Battle, the Big Hole Battle, the Camas Meadows Battle, the Canyon Creek Battle, the Cow Island Crossing Skirmish and the Bear Paw Battle. The seven bars also represent the seven generations and seven drums -- very important in Nez Perce culture. The six triangles represent eagle feathers to honor the six bands that were pursued by the U.S. Army, until Chief Joseph's final stand near the Bear Paw Mountains on October 5, 1877. These six bands were the Joseph (or Wallowa) Band, the Lean Elk Band, the Looking Glass Band, the Palouse Band, the Toohoolhoolzote Band, and the White Bird Band. Written by: Brian McCormack, Board Member Designed by Sarha Penny

NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION HAS A NEW HOME

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation after several years of having different Office locations has finally found a office location that we hope will become a stable location. The Office will be located in the Native American Center at the SACAJAWEA Interpretive, Cultural and Educational CENTER located in Salmon Idaho. The Birth place of Sacajawea a Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Center. The Center is located on the Nez Perce National Historical Trail Auto Route on US Highway 28 1 mile East of Salmon. There are over 100 miles of the Nez Perce Trail in Lemhi County, The Big Hole Battlefield is also located near by and there is a common relationship between the goals of the Center and the Foundation. This location should give the Nez Perce Foundation a greater exposure do to the many visitors that will visit the Sacajawea Center.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

At the July Board of Directors meeting I was elected Secretary of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. I will be replacing an individual that has given many hours of his time to the position over the years. Brian McCormick has made an outstanding contribution to the Foundation, helping to bring it to the point where it is today. His knowledge of the 1877 War Trail and the Nez Perce customs and traditions are great.

I cannot fill his shoes, but can only bring to the position the desire to meet the demands of the Foundation, grow in understanding and give it my very best.

I first came to Idaho in 1980 to ride on the Chief Joseph Trail Ride, sponsored by the Appaloosa Horse Club and have been on the ride every since. There is something about the Nez Perce Trail and the effect that it has on a person that is hard to explain. An event that took place in 1877 still has an effect on everyone who travels the trail. Nez Perce people have a special reason, as their experience is that of their ancestors who traveled the route. It was Nez Perce people who I meet on that first ride that made me aware that it was more than just a trail ride.

The ride has a special meaning to each who travels the trail. It affects each of us in its own way. In my case the next year when I came back I meet Lynda and we have been together since, sharing the trail with each other and the many people we have met over the years. We have become members of a large family that shares the meaning of the Nez Perce Trail.

The Nez Perce, US Army and the general public should never forget the hardships and tragedy that took place on that journey. It was with that in mind that in 2003 when I managed the Chief Joseph Trail Ride into the Bear Paw Battle Field that we brought together both sides in a reconciliation of the event, not an reenactment of the surrender, but both sides together in a healing ceremony the brought some closer to the event with the promise that something like this would never happen again. A new beginning not an end, to share the lessons of the Nez Perce Trail with all who are willing to participate and learn.

The goal of the Nez Perce Foundation as discussed by the Board of Directors was to expand the membership, which will enable us to expand the activities of the Foundation. To expand the Trail to Canada, to Oklahoma and back to Nez Perce Country. To get a designated Trail for People and Horse use that will allow us to continue the Route as experienced by the Nez Perce People and U.S. Army Troops. It will allow us to meet the purposes of the Foundation in a way that the Auto Tour cannot. For to travel the land as they did will allow each of us to have that personal experience that will keep us coming back.

Lilóoy 'ískit (Happy Trails)

Jim Evans



?skitpe is a Nez Perce word that translates to "on the trail, path or road." This newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and serves the members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

Submission: All readers are encouraged to submit material, stories, photos, and ideas that relate to the Nez Perce Trail for publication consideration. All submissions are subject to editing for grammar, clarity, length, and the editor reserves the right to reject any submission. Submissions may be made via E-mail, on a 3.5" disk, or on paper. Submissions must be made by the following dates:

Spring: March 20 Summer: June 20

Fall: September 20 Winter: December 20

Subscriptions: Subscriptions are free to members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. A one-year subscription for non-members is \$10 to cover the costs of printing and postage. For more information, call Jim Evans at 208.756 4870 or email secretary@nezpercetrail.net.



Nez Perce National Historical Trail by Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator

Over the past 15 years I have experienced all of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. While driving the auto tour route, walking, or riding horseback along the Trail, I try to imagine what the natural environment looked like back in 1877, and try to establish where the trail was actually located. I try to understand the management of a particular landscape by various user groups -- and changes that have occurred since the Nez Perce first traveled the Trail.

Trail visitors want to understand changes wrought on the landscape. We continue to be on the lookout for new ways to connect with different groups, whether through an established relationship with a non-profit organization like Nez Perce Trail Foundation, or a new and developing relationship with a museum like the West Yellowstone Museum.

The NPNHT will continue to search out relationships that help tell the story of the Trail and help provide a continuous link along the Trail route.

We are pleased to present this Progress Report, highlighting some of the NPNHT accomplishments for 2003 and 2004. These accomplishments reflect our commitment to our philosophy and mission and to the Trail:

- Reviewed and edited NPNHT portion of the [Hells Canyon NRA Comprehensive Management Plan](#)
- Wrote and recorded interpretive/informational radio spots covering NPNHT
- Assisted personnel with the Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center, Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office, and Lolo Pass Visitor Information Center with information requests, interpretive materials, and displays on the NPNHT, Nez Perce culture, Nez Perce continuum, and the return of Nez Perce to the Wallowa Region
- Represented the NPNHT as ex-officio member of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC), a governor-appointed council to advise, locate, preserve, and encourage the use of the four nationally recognized and 16 state-recognized historic trails in Oregon.
- Represented NPNHT at commemorative events held at battle sites at White Bird, Clearwater, Big Hole and Bears Paw
- Dedicated Indian Village Grove of culturally modified trees along the NPNHT into the Oregon Heritage Tree Program with representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, National Park Service, Oregon Travel Information Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs, The Nature Conservancy, Wallowa Resources (a non-profit community sustainability organization), local media, and interested local publics.
- Coordination of the development of a Heritage Tree plaque in Nez Perce language to be mounted with the original plaque
- Ordered and replaced NPNHT reassurance markers and NPNHT Auto Tour signs in four states
- Coordinated and collaborated with the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center throughout the year as ex-officio board member -- the Center is also a Nez Perce National Historical Park [NEPE] site
- Coordinated and collaborated with NEPE (specifically WA/OR Unit Manager, Natural Resource Manager, Museum Curator, and Archivist)
- Funded and finished the reconstruction design of Joseph Canyon Overlook along the NPNHT Auto Route on State Hwy 3 (co-managed site with NEPE)
- Continued to increase informational area and interpretive/educational products related to the Trail in the Clarkston office of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center
- Attended and presented at the Nez Perce Trail Foundation annual meeting
- Funded Region 6 representative to attend the final day of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride (sponsored by the Appaloosa Horse Club) finishing their 100-mile ride of the War of 1877 route by riding into Bears Paw Battlefield
- Produced a feature on the [Chief Joseph Trail Ride](#) online, including a slide show and video clips of ceremonial drummers
- Hosted video crew filming landscapes along the Trail for an agency-produced educational documentary
- Provided coordination and involvement between the NPNHT and planning committee of the newly designated All-American Road for trail interpretation (portions of Auto/Adventure Routes along this A-A Road)
- Served on a Burned Area Emergency Recovery (BAER) Team for the Clearwater National Forest Beaver Lake Fire Complex and provided write-up for BAER Report.
- Attended Lewis and Clark Symposium to ensure protection of and accurate interpretation of NPNHT and its associated resources
- Participated in annual partner meeting with NEPE in Spalding

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- Funded R6 representative to continue planning and coordinating with Nez Perce Young Horsemen program for a ride -- including a Snake River crossing -- to the homeland
- Funded R6 representative to continued consultation with Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and Nez Perce Tribe cultural committees (specifically Elders of the tribes) on the proposed Blue Mountain land exchange,

in which the Wallowa-Whitman could acquire about three miles of the NPNHT currently under private ownership and access to another two miles of trail under NFS ownership but currently without access

- Funded R6 representative to present Tribal Relations section of the Blue Mountains Province National Environmental Policy Act(NEPA) Effects Training
- For complete report see the web site Www.fs.fed.us./nphnt

REFLECTIONS

ON THE 2004 CHIEF JOSEPH TRAIL RIDE

Lili Pasture, Foundation Member from Holland

When reading Charlie Moses' account of our recent Chief Joseph Trail ride, I realized once again that the eyes of a stranger see so much less than the eyes of people that are privileged to have all that beauty of Mother Nature at their doorstep. And live it. Being deprived myself of such, the deficit also comes from lack of proper understanding how the things you look at have become like they look - the Earth can tell you stories without speaking, but you need to know that specific type of sign-language.

Well, I don't. That is to say, I try to learn by consulting books like "Essentials of Geology", and "Physical Geography of the Global Environment" - but you need an intermediate to link the book-knowledge to what's shown to the eye. To me, Charlie's account filled this role.

We definitely rode the same trail, but Charles' was astonishing different in observation. By reading I kind of rode it again, going through his day-to-day description, and tried to combine it with the images that still were clearly in my Head Box Office. The first day, he says, we rode up the moraine east of Wallowa Lake. Now thanks to the books I know at least what a moraine is, but don't ask me to point one out. I had to take the map out to see where "West of Wallowa Lake" was supposed to be, tried to recall the scenery of that day, and reframed it like "climbing a moraine". Which, as one can image, turns

it into a much different and more worthwhile

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experience than "going up a hill".

Next, we rode across a valley. That also is a known conception to me, but somehow it never was labeled that way during my riding experiences - it never came beyond "going down a hill", as a consequence of going up a hill.

Then, Charlie continues, we rode over a ridge. Again, I know what a ridge is supposed to be, but being *on* it was unknown to my illiterate perceptive faculty. We were riding high, that's what my recollection tells me. Even the name of the ridge, "Cats Back" as the map told me, didn't ring a bell.

One will understand that the awareness of riding on a divide between Little Sheep Creek and Sheep Creek is way beyond my grasp. But I still wonder how the heck he knows that all.

The pull-out-the-rain-gear-stop we had just before entering camp was a highlight to me that day; first because ever since my first ride last year I had wondered how such an event would affect the emotions of the many hundred horses, assuming that the cracking and flapping of gear would scare the hell out of them. To my relief they almost all didn't blink an eye, maybe because their ammo was used up after all the hard work they'd done.

Second, I finally could wear the wonderful lightweight waterproof Australian Coat which I had purchased last year. I saw that coat on the owner of my then leased horse, and he was so nice as to arrange for me that the lady who made them came up to the motel where I stayed. So I bought my dream coat out of a truck on the parking lot of a motel, and never had any use for it

but bicycling in the rain at home - keeps your pants comfortable dry. When entering camp in that outfit I almost felt like the Queen of the Trail.

The description of the second day harbors also some surprises. Sure, this time I was aware of being in a breathtaking valley setting, but the *lower* valley? What's that? Yes, the trees changed into a different species, but how is one to know where a valley turns into a lower valley?

When in whatever valley, I learned new things. Jim Evans, who's party I was riding with on one of his horses, pointed out a kind of shallow part between the hills, saying "we call that a draw". I knew the word, but then you try to attach it to some key-features in order to recognize one by yourself a next time. Nothing there to hang on to, so I referred to other words concerning such carves in the landscape and asked what the difference was with a gulch (not that I had a clear idea about that either, but one tries to set a frame). That sparked a vivid discussion about the differences between a draw, a gully, a coulee, a ravine, a gorge and a canyon. And later, during Happy Hour in camp, led to a ranking list which more or less is the catalogue as mentioned. There's one feature that day that was well-known to this traveler - the highway. The third day brings less revelations, although the Imnaha River is a newcomer. Since the Trail history in this area only deals with the Snake River, the Imnaha never got much of my attention - let alone the difficulty of knowing that the valleys you look at are created by a river in common and the Imnaha specifically. Even so I wouldn't have thought of naming the tall grasses a plain; knowing that in the early days there were huge amounts of tall grass prairies to the East, the only kind of plains I know of are the Great Plains like the grasslands we rode in Montana. So I still have to learn about possible differences between plains and prairies.

The fourth day I didn't ride, the horses were given a little rest instead of another hot experience by descending into a canyon and climbing out again. We went out on our own legs to have a look from the Buckhorn Overlook into the steep canyon and the adjacent area. We could see the riders stretched out in a tiny string, curling along the canyon wall. And the caterpillar-like ridges of the Imnaha drainage. Just like Charlie I thought it almost unconceivable how the Nez Perce mastered all those obstacles which Mother Nature had created during the thousands of years that took the

sculpturing of the world.

The last day's description gave proof of yet another difference - it showed how much Charlie is aware of where he is, whereas I tend to be just there. He knows what is before him, besides him and behind him. He knows where the North, the West, the South and the East is - a knowledge that I never grew up with and for which I need a map to figure it out. Or go through a time-consuming procedure like where is the sun, and then make a kind of compass. At noon that is even more complicated. Americans are born with a compass in their system I assume, for they often bewilder me when asking for directions. I'm told then like "turn East on the 1st block and then two blocks South" and so on, which only worsens the problem. I need left and right, and preferably a stop sign to take the turns at. Roads are no problem - I have the map in my head and know in what direction I'm going or need to go. I never get lost. But as soon as the head is mapless, I'm in the dark.

So, in short, I had a second trail ride by reading Charlie's words. This time in depth, so to say. I guess all people who grow up in the West have these eyes to look at the world that surrounds them, and they all understand that language that tells them so much more than the scanty vocabulary which is mine.

The vistas we see are the same - the only thing I need is new eyes. (CONTINUED PAGE 6)



TAMKALIKS CELEBRATION: The 14th annual Tamkaliks Celebration was held July 16-18 on traditional grounds near Wallowa, Oregon. Hosted each year by the Tamkaliks Committee and the [Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center](#), the celebration (formerly called Wallowa Band Descendants Friendship Feast & Pow Wow) is a recognition of the continuing Nez Perce presence in the Wallowa Valley. The event included a "Homecoming on Horseback" parade, dancing, drumming and songs, and a friendship feast.

The Annual Meeting was held during the Tamkaliks Celebration at the offices in Wallowa. Our thanks to Joe McCormick and Cathy Quistgard for making all the arrangements for us. '

Or people like Charlie. I'd like to add a little more to this. I learned of Charlie's contribution to Iskitpe when I visited him and his charming wife Margaret at their home in Elmer City, at the Colville Reservation. We had met during the meeting of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation in Wallowa; I had joined the Evans on their trip to Joseph so that I also could attend the meeting. (At first I didn't recognize Charlie at all - only when he showed me a picture of the 2003 ride showing him dressed in full regalia, I did. I only had seen him like that.)

I was glad and honored to be there those days, days that were very inspiring to me. Anyway, I told them that I would go to Nespelem after the trail ride, to revisit Chief Joseph's grave in honor of the centennial of his year of dying and to see Yellow Wolf's gravesite. At the time of my first visit to the cemetery, I wasn't aware that Yellow Wolf was laid to rest there too.

They invited me to see them then, and so I did. The evening before, I learned that in their area a bushfire was going on but they said they fire had come close but not at their home so it was okay. Next day I drove up through the blackened hills with still quite some smoke around and enjoyed the talking and looking into pictures we did. Charlie gave me the draft of the Trail Ride account, and then Charlie offered to accompany me to the cemetery, which of course I appreciated greatly.

On the road to there he showed me several building that played and play an important role in the social life of the Nez Perce. Then, he introduced me to Frank Andrews who, as he put it, was the real Cemetery Guide.

Frank turned out to be an impressive, good humored WW II veteran who, as soon as he learned that I was from the Netherlands, talked with gusto about his march through France after D-day, the liberating of the Southeastern part of my country (1944) and the four big battles he had taken part in till the war ended in Germany (1945).

I was flabbergasted. Sixty years after those happenings that still are vividly in the mind of the Dutch, I sat together with a Nez Perce who personally had contributed to the freedom we experience ever since. Freedom, that brutally was taken away and denied to his ancestors. I hardly could make sense to that.

Frank took us over the cemetery, and we stood for some time at Chief Josephs grave. There are all kinds

of tributes on his grave, and I told them of the CD I saw when visiting there for the first time among the pouches, the sweet grass, the coins, the tobacco - the title of the CD was "How the West was lost". Together with a coin that beared the image of John Kennedy, they were the ultimate translation of a state of mind that one can't escape when thinking of all that was lost notwithstanding superhuman sacrifices, that were beyond imagination. Dying of a broken heart must be the worst of deaths.

When on the road again on my own, my head full of milling thoughts, I finally thought that the spirit of this great human being still is so powerful that a century later a person from overseas came to take part in riding the trail his people had followed, and pay honors at his gravesite - because his descendant had brought her the freedom to do so.

To me, that is an awareness I will never loose, and is the core of what the Nez Perce Trail means to me.



NEW
BOARD

MEMBERS

RICHARD SEYMORE, from Wallowa, OR. With his wife of 45 years, Sarah, better known as Sally have been raising and breeding appaloosa horses since 1962. They are members of the Appaloosa Club since 1964., They also are active members of Oregon equestrian trails and have been since 1978. O.E.T. is a horse group dedicated to the construction of horse camps and trails on public land , working in conjunction with the USFS ,BLM , and State Forestry . Richard retired from Portland Public schools in 1997 as Supervisor of the electronic technicians and immediately moved wife and horses to the great Wallowa county

.GENE and Mollie EASTMAN, from Weippe, ID have been involved in research concerning the Lolo Trail for several years. They presented a most interesting program at the Annual Meeting. (see article from the Associated Press) Gene is a retired Idaho Fish and Game Officer.

2004 ANNUAL MEETING

July 15-16, Wallowa, Oregon

The following is a summary of the 2004 annual meeting. The official minutes of the meeting are available ON THE WEB SITE.

The annual meeting of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation was held on the afternoon of July 15 and all day July 16 at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center in Wallowa, Oregon. Attendees included Paul Wapato, Charlie Moses, Brian McCormack, Ruth Wapato, Margaret Moses, Porter Pierce, Mike Seale, Leah Conner, Jim Evans, Joe McCormack, Rosa Yearout, Cathy Quistgard, Kathryn Cawston, Dee Hines, Jeff Jarvis, Doug Eury, Kent Nerburn, Mollie Eastman, Gene Eastman, David Scholes, Sandi McFarland, Myrna Tovey, Atwice Kamia-kun, Dick Seymour, Sally Seymour, Paul C. Wapato, Scott Eckberg, Marie Marek, Tim Nitz, and Lili Pasteur.

The first topic of discussion on July 15 was membership and the potential for increasing the number of Foundation members through a membership drive. Questions were raised about inviting participants on the Chief Joseph Trail Ride to join the Foundation, and agreement was reached to invite riders to join. Other membership discussion included the need to make another mass mailing, possibilities for pursuing corporate sponsorship, and creating a subcommittee of board members who can pursue membership drives.

Discussion about the Foundation Office included questions on sharing office space with the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center; the Foundation did consider such a partnership some years ago, but the Executive Committee decided to locate the first office in the USFS office in Orofino, Idaho. That location did not work well, as the Foundation officers were unable to make regular visits to Orofino. It was determined that the office should be located where one of the officers resides.

All members were invited to the Chief Joseph Trail Ride reception at Buckhorn Overlook on Thursday, July 22.

Meeting discussion then moved on to the Chief Joseph Commemoration topic. Most Nez Perce descendants have agreed that we won't celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Chief Joseph's death on September 21, 2004. We should, however, celebrate the accomplishments of his life. The Nez Perce usually pay tribute to their deceased one year after their death, and after that, they don't talk about them. Questions were raised about honoring Chief Joseph during the Nez Perce Tribe's Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Event in 2006, and it was agreed to contact Ethel Greene, the Lewis & Clark coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe.

Regarding the 1855 Treaty Commemoration, it was noted that Bobbie Conner has met with representatives from other Pacific Northwest Tribes about the 150-year anniversary of the Stevens Treaty of 1855. The Foundation

needs to contact Bobbie Conner for further information about participation.

Agency reports commenced on the morning of July 16, beginning with a presentation by Sandi McFarland, Administrator of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT). She is hiring new staff who will work with Nez Perce Tribe, and she discussed the Fort Leavenworth Site Certification, her work with Heritage Design in Spokane, Washington, and new trail brochures and other printed materials. She told of the article on "Following the Nez Perce Trail" in *True West Magazine's* August issue, and explained that there is a new book scheduled to be published, sponsored by the NPNHT.

McFarland also explained about new coloring books for kids created by Jo Proferes; the Northwest Interpretive Association requested extensive editing and so the NPNHT agreed to publish the coloring books in their current format. The NPNHT staff plan to develop their own coloring book in the future, working with Heritage Design.

Several retirements have occurred within the USFS that affect the Trail, including Doug Gockner, line officer, Pete Menard, Clearwater Forest trails coordinator, and John Kirschmaker, line officer.

It was also noted that the Tribe will soon hire a new director for the Young Horseman's Program, and plans are under way for a GPS/GIS project with the Nez Perce Tribe. The NPNHT will also accept Steve Russell's GPS/GIS research about the Lewis & Clark Trail. McFarland also highlighted a variety of Trail displays created with new graphics, and noted that the Comprehensive Management Plan will be revised, along with a new administrative history soon to be developed.

Dee Hines, the manager of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA), is filling in for Kendall Clark, who is on the Carson National Forest in Taos. Hines explained that Dave is a USFS tribal liaison in northern California, and Skip is replacing Dave. Karen Wood is moving to Portland. The main focus on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is fires and fuels, with a \$22 million budget. Hines discussed the new Comprehensive Management Plan for the Hells Canyon NRA, which prohibits motorized vehicles except on the usual roads and trails, replaces impassable fish culverts, and includes recreation projects, trails, and snowmobile projects. The Schedule of Proposed Actions, or SOPA list is available, and Foundation members can be added to the list for upcoming or needed projects. Hines also discussed concerns about dispersed campsites in the Dug Bar area.

Further discussion followed on future projects, and the fact that not all cultural sites have been identified. Kendall was working on a land exchange with the Lewis Ranch, but the family patriarch recently died and the heirs don't want to complete the exchange. A draft environmental impact statement is under development, and Gene Lovell in Baker City is the project manager. Questions were also raised about the interpretive sign and

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Doug Eury, Superintendent at the Nez Perce National Historical Park, along with Marie Marek, interpretive specialist, and Scott Eckberg, Idaho unit manager, discussed land acquisition and the lack of previous NPS land ownership at Weippe. Opresiks and Larry Boyer owned about 270 acres, which the NPS acquired. Mrs. Opresik may remain in the existing house for her lifetime, and after her death, all structures will be removed. The site will not be developed, except for possible parking area improvements; the site is near the probable location where Lewis & Clark met the Nez Perce.

New advance highway directional signs will be installed, and it was noted that many exotic plants are on the site now. Possible plans include the creation of a harvestable camas garden. Also, the NPS acquired land west of the existing Canoe Camp site from a willing seller, and staff are upgrading the site to accommodate larger vehicles. Archaeological clearance was obtained, and the environmental assessment is out for public review. Information about the EA is on the [NPS](#) website. The preferred plans include restoring the site to its natural condition and constructing a small maintenance facility to serve upriver NPS sites. The loop trail may be extended, but most likely will add just enough trail to link up to the existing trail. The modular home park to the west will remain in place, but a new fence line will be installed to separate uses.

Also, under Marie's direction, 54 NPNHP panels will be redesigned; the draft text has been developed and is under review. Nakia Williamson is doing the artwork, and production is scheduled for next January. Installation should be completed by next summer.

The "Partners and Friends" newsletter was discussed; this has been published for some time, but most Foundation

members are not on the mailing list. Doug passed a sign-up sheet, and it was agreed that the Foundation needs to ensure that members are on all agency mailing lists.

Of 28 sites along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, only six are managed by the NPS. In news from the Big Hole Battlefield, Jon James in January moved on to George Washington Memorial Parkway near Washington, DC. He was at Big Hole for eight years. Several 6-week interim administrators followed, including Otis Halfmoon. The new position was advertised as a GS-12, the same as before, and attracted 20 applicants. Interviews are now being conducted. The administrator will be responsible for all Montana sites and the Camas Meadows site in Idaho. The selection should be complete within a few weeks but the new hire won't start work till the first of October. The Fort Walsh, Canada rangers will be at Big Hole in August; last year, the NPS sent rangers to Canada as part of an exchange program. The permanent ranger at Bear Paw Battlefield is Robert West, who has been there since January. The new office is at the old telephone building in Chinook, and the Chinook Chamber of Commerce is installing a new interpretive panel at the corner opposite the Chinook Motor Inn. Jim Maguera is the summer ranger, along with J.C. Sheppard (the daughter of Jude, who operates the Blaine County Museum).

The NPS is in the process of transferring land for the Interpretive Center from the State of Montana to the NPS, which should be completed by the end of the year. Scenic easements will be on surrounding private land, and the NPS needs to get the land purchased before they can proceed with the interpretive center.

At the Canyon Creek Battlefield, a new interpretive structure is under way; groundbreaking occurred in September 2002 but there is no firm date for completion of the project. The design is similar to the structure at Fort Benton.

The Camas Meadows Skirmish Site is in BLM/private ownership. There was a wildfire at White Bird Battlefield in February, and 800 acres of the 1,200-acre site were burned. The NPS applied for burned area rehabilitation funds, and completed herbicide application in May. The NPS will continue to work on weed control. Staff are also working with the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) at White Bird and Weippe, trying to re-introduce native plant species. The site is overrun with leafy spurge and yellowstar thistle. It was noted that the boundary of White Bird Battlefield is the old spiral highway. At the Joseph Canyon Overlook, a new design by a USFS landscape architect is under construction. It will include new interpretive signs, restrooms, marked parking, and an overlook rock wall. A proposed interpretive trail was deferred because of budget constraints. The construction should be finished by the end of September, and a grand opening is planned for next spring. This is one of the NPS sites, and will include two interpretive themes -- Howard's order to burn Nez Perce root caches, and Nez Perce use of the canyon as a thoroughfare.

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Discussion then followed regarding the "Friends of the Big Hole Battlefield," which was originally organized as an offshoot of the "Friends of the Little Big Horn." The board members expressed some concern about the "Friends" group and its mission.

Jeff Jarvis with the BLM explained that Deb Salt works on trails programs with the BLM, and Stan McDonald in Boise is the Idaho Nez Perce trails liaison. The BLM is working on a Strategic Plan, and the "Gipper" measure for progress on trails was discussed. They are updating their website and requested a representative photo of the Trail, which was provided by Charlie Moses.

Nominations for Foundation board members were made, including:

- Paul Wapato, Spokane, Washington
- Charlie Moses, Jr., Elmer City, Washington
- Brian McCormack, Lapwai, Idaho
- Jim Evans, Salmon, Idaho
- Joseph O. McCormack, Wallowa, Oregon
- Porter L. Pierce, Vancouver, Washington
- Michael D. Seale, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
- Ruth Wapato, Spokane, Washington
- Rosa Yearout, Lapwai, Idaho
- Gene Eastman, Weippe, Idaho
- Mollie Eastman, Weippe, Idaho
- Rich Wandschneider, Enterprise, Oregon
- Myrna Tovey, Malad City, Idaho
- Dick Seymour, Wallowa, Oregon
- Paul C. Wapato, Avon, Colorado

The following nominations were made for members not present, and the Foundation will contact these people to confirm their appointments:

- Crystal White, Lapwai, Idaho
- Leah Conner, Pendleton, Oregon
- Nick Hudson, Park City, Utah

Cathy Quistgard, Joseph, Oregon We will add a note here

and/or on our [NEWS](#) page when these appointments are confirmed.

A motion was made to accept the nominations. It was seconded and approved. Nominations for officers followed. Jim Evans nominated Paul Wapato for president, and Charlie Moses seconded. Joe McCormack nominated Crystal White for vice president, and Mike Seale seconded. Ruth Wapato nominated Charlie Moses for treasurer, Brian seconded. Jim Evans was nominated for secretary. It was moved that the above four officers be elected to the executive committee; the motion was seconded and approved. It was determined that Jim Evans will hire an administrative assistant in Salmon, Idaho to assist him in his duties as secretary.

In other business, the possibility of a partnership with WBNPTIC in hiring a director was discussed, along with the need to find someone to serve as a development person for both organizations. Margaret Moses agreed to take over Foundation membership duties, including sending out renewal notices and thank you letters, and depositing membership dues.

Tribal support of the Foundation was then discussed, including the need to develop MOUs with the three Tribes. The Nez Perce Tribe contacts could include Robert Taylor, Randy Minthorn, and/or Tony Johnson. Foundation board members who are enrolled with the three tribes will make requests for the MOUs. Rosa Yearout, Crystal White, Joe McCormack, and Brian McCormack will be representatives for the Nez Perce Tribe; Myrna Tovey and Leah Conner will be Foundation representatives to the Umatilla Tribe, and for the Colville Tribe, Charlie Moses along with Paul, Ruth, and Paul C. Wapato will be NPTF representatives.

Former secretary Brian McCormack will go to the Clarkston NPTF office and go through computer and paper files and organize them for transfer to Margaret and Jim Evans.

A motion regarding the "Nez Perce Primitive Trail" was made by Jim Evans and seconded by Charlie Moses. The motion was approved and it is resolved that the Nez Perce Trail Foundation participate in establishment of a designated primitive trail for traveling the approximate route of the War of 1877. The Foundation will seek the cooperation of the Appaloosa Horse Club, the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc., and the concerned government agencies - including the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. A subcommittee will be formed to develop this motion, with members to include Jim Evans, Rosa Yearout, Mollie Eastman, and Dick Seymour. It was noted that MOUs with all the agencies are needed. Following this, a motion regarding a Nez Perce National Historic Trail "Extension" was made by Charlie Moses and seconded by Joe McCormack. It is resolved that the Nez Perce Trail extension will be from Wallowa, Oregon, to the beginning of the existing trail near Wallowa Lake.

The second extension will be from the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana, to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to

Historic Trail "Extension" was made by Charlie Moses and seconded by Joe McCormack. It is resolved that the Nez Perce Trail extension will be from Wallowa, Oregon, to the beginning of the existing trail near Wallowa Lake.

The second extension will be from the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana, to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Baxter Springs, Kansas, to the Oakland Agency near Tonkawa, Oklahoma, to the Quapaw Reservation, Oklahoma, to Nespelem, Washington. The third extension will be from the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana, to Canada.

Rosa Yearout pointed out that the extensions would be excellent, but we need to research the other stories, such as the Nez Perce who left Canada to return home to Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. There is very little information about the return trip. Rosa heard a story from Johnny Arlee from the Salish-Kootenai Reservation about where the Nez Perce camped on the Flathead Reservation.

The motion was approved.

The Wallowa Site Certification Ceremony is planned for May 18, 2005, the anniversary of the date that the Nez Perce left Wallowa. Questions were raised about whether the interpretive sign could be installed at the NPS pullout at the Homeland Site; Foundation representatives will meet with Tim Nitz, who is supposed to develop the sign text.



By the 1730s the *Nimíipuu* had welcomed a new member into their family - the horse. The horse was likely first introduced to the *Nimíipuu* by their close allies, the Cayuse. With the adoption of the horse the *Nimíipuu* become even a more mobile people and were able to transport heavier loads. They now frequently traveled across the Bitterroot Mountains to [hunt buffalo](#) on the northern plains. And with the horse, larger quantities of buffalo robes and meat could be brought back to *Nimíipuu* country, for example. The journeys throughout the Columbia River Basin to trade and fish at such the important intertribal centers as Celilo Falls and Kettle Falls was made much easier. The territory of the seasonal round and the peoples included within it were thus greatly expanded as a result of the horse.

November 19, 2004--Fort Leavenworth:The Nez Perce Trail Foundation, in conjunction with Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, is working to have the Fort Leavenworth site officially certified as part of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. The certification ceremony will take place at Fort Leavenworth on Friday, November 19, 2004. For additional information about this event, contact Crystal White, Foundation Vice-president at: vicepresident@nezperctrail.net.

November 7, 2004--"Walking On Sacred Ground":Idaho Public Television will be airing the Lewis-Clark State College production of Walking On Sacred Ground on Sunday, November 7, at 10:30PM. Lewis-Clark State College will be sending out a press release about the program, the funding agencies, and all of the project partner involvement one week prior to the air date of the program. I hope everyone will be able to watch KUID in our region and enjoy seeing the fruits of their labor.



A Glimpse of the Past: First Known White Man Into the Nez Perce Homeland

From 2003 'Iskitpe

On September 20, 1805, William Clark came onto the Weippe Prairie in Idaho.

Clark wrote "ascended a steep mountain leaving the creek (Lolo Creek) to our left hand, passed the head of several streams on a dividing ridge, and at 12 miles descended the mountain to a level pine country proceeded on through a bountiful country for 3 miles to a small plain in which I found many Indian lodges." One mile from the lodges he met up with 3 Indian (Nez Perce) boys, who quickly hid in the tall grass. He found two of the boys giving them small pieces of ribbon and sent them forward to the village. Soon after a man came out to meet Clark and conducted Clark to a large spacious lodge. The Chief and warriors were gone battling a tribe to the Southwest.

The Nez Perce offered Clark small pieces of buffalo meat, dried salmon berries and roots in which Clark gave them a few small articles as presents.

Members of Twisted Hair's camp considered killing Lewis & Clark for their weapons. They were dissuaded by an old woman named Watkuweis (meaning returned from a Far Country). She overheard the plans to kill the white men. She spoke up saying "These men are So-yap-pos! Good Men! Men like these were good to me. Do not kill them! DO THEM NO HARM!"

MEET OUR OFFICERS

Paul Wapato, President -- An enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes who embarked on an aerospace engineering career after earning a mechanical engineering degree at the University of Washington, Wapato spent 30 years in Southern California, where he collected a Master's degree from the University of Southern California while working on the manned space programs of the 1960's and 1970's. At retirement, Wapato was managing programs related to surveillance satellites. All Colvilles are quite aware of the heritage of the War of 1877, due to the presence of the Joseph Band on the Colville Reservation since 1886. However, Paul Wapato's level of awareness increased in 1957, when he married a descendant of the Joseph Band. Now a resident of Spokane, Washington, he devotes his energies to the Foundation and to service on the Board of the Volunteers of America, Spokane.

Charlie Moses, Treasurer -- A Joseph Band Nez Perce, Charlie Moses was born and raised on the Colville Indian Reservation in central Washington. Earning a Business Administration degree at Washington State University led to a 34-year career as a Bureau of Indian Affairs credit officer, serving on Indian Reservations throughout the West, as well as at the Portland Area Office. Retirement in 1990 allowed Charlie to return to the Colville Reservation, where he is a full-time cattle rancher, with a 200 cow and calf operation. He raises a few good colts each year, keeping about a dozen horses on the ranch. In addition to work for the Foundation, he serves on many committees, both for the Tribe and for local agricultural organizations. He is also an active student of Nez Perce History and culture, and hopes to someday find time to assemble his research for publication.

BOARD MEMBERS

Each issue we will give information on our Board Members

Ruth Moses Wapato, Board Member -- Like her brother Charlie, Ruth Moses was born and raised on the Colville Indian Reservation, until age 12, when tuberculosis sent her to the Cushman Indian Hospital, near Tacoma, Washington. Ruth returned at 17 to rejoin her class at Nespelem High School, but had to return to Cushman right after graduation due to a second bout with TB. This delayed her college education, but Ruth made up the loss by gaining her B.A. in elementary education at Western Washington University in three years. She then started teaching at schools in the Seattle area, where she soon met and married Paul Wapato. Paul's graduation from the University of Washington in 1961 and their subsequent move to southern California coincided with the birth of a second daughter -- so Ruth gave up teaching for child rearing. Two sons followed the two daughters and 13 years rolled by. Wanting to return to work, but not to teaching, Ruth enrolled in a nursing program at Golden West College and received her R.N. in 1976. Until her husband's retirement in 1991, Ruth nursed in a variety of southern California hospitals and clinics, and also worked as a substitute teacher, substitute school nurse and as a registry nurse. Now, much of her time is spent in NPTF activities and in study of the War of 1877; other retirement activities

sewing (in particular, traditional Nez Perce wing dresses) and in being a grandmother to her seven grandchildren.

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP

George and Iola Hatley of Moscow Idaho were presented with a Life Time Membership with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation on Thursday July 22, 2004 at the Chief Joseph Trail Ride encampment at the Buckhorn Overlook, near Enterprise Oregon.

On this 40th year of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride, riders from all over the United States and the world witnessed the presentation made by Paul Wapato, President and Jim Evans, Secretary of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation to George and Iola for the help they have given in the founding and continued operation of the Foundation. George know as Mr. Appaloosa started the Appaloosa Horse Club's Chief Joseph Trail Ride that covers 100 miles of the 1877 War Trail. The Appaloosa Horse Club has joined the Nez Perce Trail Foundation in their effort to designate a horse and people trail to preserve the route.

The Joseph Band of the Colville Confederated Tribes presented a Pendleton blanket and the Umatilla

Confederated Tribes presented a Pendleton horse blanket. Iola was given a beaded broach by the Foundation.



Paul Wapato, President NPTF, George Hatley, Iola Hatley, Jim Evans, Secretary, NPTF

Lolo Trail May Be Getting Lost

Excerpts taken from Associated Press article by
Hannelore Sudermann.

Members of our Board of Directors were interviewed for this article; here are excerpts from the news story.

The Lolo Trail means different things to different people. For many Americans, it is known as the most difficult and miserable portion of the Lewis and Clark journey. For the Nez Perce, it's a trail system their ancestors used for centuries to hunt buffalo and trade with other tribes.

Gene Eastman and Mollie (Board Members) Weippe Idaho residents it's a mystery, a crusade and a passion.

The 126-mile trail corridor that starts at Lolo Pass in Montana and ends at Weippe is a National Historic Landmark. While the trail is clear and pronounced in many places, in others it has been damaged or obscured by fires, human use, federal forest management, changes in animal trails and new growth. The Eastman's fear that because no one clearly has identified the true original trail in its entirety, the route is being neglected, damaged or rerouted to provide access for tourists. The Eastman's goal is to discover and mark the trail. Logic suggests and the original maps confirm that the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery traveled the obvious routes of the Nez Perce. Some of the trail segments that the Forest Service has marked today, such as the switchback section just a quarter-mile before the Lolo Campground, would never have existed 200 years ago, said Eastman, noting that Indian trails would have gone directly up and down hills.

There are many ideas on where the trail is and for many reasons the route has been changed. Road building, the Lolo Motorway according to Aaron Miles, natural resources manager for the Nez Perce Tribe, which was built in the 1930, was bulldozed for the building of the road. The Forest Service over the years have designated trails for hiking among the existing network of trails, while not the precise route they have been used historically and switchbacks are put in-place for safety and to control erosion. As long as the route is close to what might have been the original should be ok.

Eastman believes that he can find segments of the trail and that finding and protecting the true trail should be possible with modern technology and archaeological expertise. But that some parts of the trail have already been changed irrevocably.

For the Nez Perce, the trail is less about American history and more about the culture and legacy. It's viewed as a scared place. Aaron Miles said, "We called it the old buffalo trail. It was highly used. Lewis and Clark was just one caravan that went through."

The trail system was also a key site during the Nez Perce War in 1877, when 5 bands of the tribe crossed the Bitterroots to evade U.S. Army efforts to move them onto a reservation. Some of the Nez Perce were later moved more than 100 miles north, to the Colville reservation. Their descendants today have never set foot on the trail system, though it's still important to them, said Charlie Moses Jr. treasurer of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. These Nez Perce see the trail system as hallowed, sacred and sad, he said. "It's another part of our past that can make or keep us whole." He said that the Forest Service should do its best to limit changes to the trail and protect it for the Nez Perce and for posterity. "It's not a scenic trail or a hiking trail, he said," It's a historic trail. There is a difference."

While the Forest Service doesn't completely agree with Eastman's assessment of the trail location or its management, the agency welcomes their interest and passion, said Keith Thurlkill, the Forest Service regional interpreter. "We all agree on the value of the trail." "The rub is what to do with it."

For detailed information on the work and study of the Lolo Trail Gene and Mollie have written a very interesting book on their work. To obtain a copy contact them for a copy.

Gene & Mollie Eastman

4160 Four Mile Road

Weippe, ID 83553

OTHER NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

RIDING THE NEZ PERCE WAR TRAIL TWICE

1965 1990

By George B. Hatley

820 East First Moscow, ID 83843

See insert for Reprint of

THE NEZ PERCE INDIANS

by Herbert J. Spinden

“The Gift of a horse is a wonderful thing “

Those words were spoken during a private religious ceremony in a secluded meadow below the beautiful, snow capped Wallowa Mountains of eastern Oregon last July 20. Speaking was Pulitzer Prize-winning author N. Scott Momaday, raising his voice slightly so that a group of about 100 invited people could hear him over the soft wind whispering through the tall Ponderosa pines near Joseph, Oregon.

Momaday, a tall, husky Kiowa Indian, spoke of a young boy's failure to recognize the importance of such a gift 104 years ago. It is what precipitated this gathering of people.

Some are descendants of Charles Erskine Scott Wood, an aide to Gen. Otto O. Howard. Others, now living at Nespelem, Wash., are descendants of the great Nez Perce Indian Chief Joseph.

In 1877 Howard's troops chased the Nez Perce from their homeland in the Wallowa Valley of Eastern Oregon almost to Canada before the Indians surrendered. Howard's U. S. Army troops also had slaughtered hundreds of the Nez Perces' speedy Appaloosas. The tribe had long selectively bred horses since acquiring them in the 18th Century. The Appaloosa name comes from the Palouse country of southeastern Washington, where the Nez Perce have roamed for centuries.

C.E.S. Wood, who was Howard's diarist, stood near the general on a snowy day in October 1877. Through an interpreter, the aide recorded the famous surrender speech of Chief Joseph at Bear Paw, Montana that concluded the last major encounter between Indians and U.S. Army troops. Then in an odd twist of history, Wood became fast friends with Chief Joseph, helping him convince Congress that the Indians, who had been sent to Oklahoma and Kansas, should be returned to the Pacific Northwest.

After Joseph and his people returned to the Colville Reservation near Nespelem, Washington, Wood sent his son, Erskine to spend two summers with Joseph. The boy lived in the chief's tepee, fished, hunted, rode horseback, and helped tend Joseph's band of 40 to 50 horses.

Erskine, 14, near the end of his second summer on the reservation received a letter from his father. C.E.S. Wood instructed his son to ask if there was any gift Joseph would accept as a token of appreciation for letting the boy live among the Nez Perce.

Erskine, who died in 1983 at age 104 wrote many years later of a day in 1893: "Joseph and I sat on our horses on the bluffs of the Columbia overlooking the river....I gave him this message and Joseph said he would like a good stallion to improve the breed of his pony heard. I looked on Joseph as

'Iskitpe—Page 13

such a great man, a noble chief driven out of his ancestral home...I thought his was too puny...I shook my head and said, "No that was not what my father meant." Joseph accepted this calmly and we said no more. But I always regretted my utter stupidity. A fine stallion that would have up-bred Joseph's heard of ponies would have been a wonderful thing for him. Not telling my father is something I shall always regret."

Monday recounted that story in Ken Burns' 1996 TV series The West. The TV series sparked the Wood clan into action. Erskine son Erskine Biddle Wood and the latter's daughter, Mary Wood took on the duty of looking for a stallion, and Katherine, Great-granddaughter of C.E.S Wood, become the fun-raiser.

Their efforts were culminated on a cool, cloudy summer morning as an Appaloosa stallion was finally presented to Joseph's descendants 104 years latter. This was an offer now of a gift never fulfilled. It is not a story of a broken promise. The Wood family had a unifying vision of an opportunity to honor the words spoken a hundred years ago.

The search for a stallion took the Woods all over the USA, looking at over 100 animals. Among those who helped to find a stallion was Rudy Shabala, a Navajo who direct the Nez Perce Tribe Youth Horseman program at the Nez Perce reservation in Lapwai, Idaho. The 3-year-old horse, black with a blanket over his loin and hips is called Zip Wild Man ApHC 534495 was bred by Lynn Walker. The Wood family not only raised more than \$20,000 for the purchase of the animal. The family also is providing funds to begin a breeding program on the reservation. The Wood family presented the horse to Keith Soy Redthunder, a spiritual leader of the Nez Perce and the oldest relative of Chief Joseph Redthunder who accepted the horse on behalf of Joseph's descendants. Tommy Waters, a Nez Perce will be the horse's main caretaker.

Chief Joseph is getting his wish after all. "A man's word is still good after 104 years," said Redthunder.

Taken from an article in THE WESTERN HORSEMAN, January 1998.

If anyone knows what has happen to the Stallion please let 'Iskitpe know and we will continue the story, Jim Evans



HELP OUR
MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE

Get 5 people to join the Foundation

Is Your Membership Current?

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation relies on membership fees to provide many valuable services to our members. With your continued financial support, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation is able to continue serving the community as an advocate for the Nez Perce Trail.

Please take a few moments to check the status of your membership. To verify your membership expiration date, please email Jim Evans at horse@rockinez.com. To update your membership dues, just send a check to Nez Perce Trail Foundation; 194 Highway 28 Salmon, ID 83467.

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$30

Family: \$50

Non Profit/Gov. \$100

Corporate: \$500

Check your address label for due date

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Crystal White, Lapwai, Idaho [vicepresident@nezperctrail.net]

TREASURER: Charlie Moses, Jr., Elmer City, Washington [treasurer@nezperctrail.net]

SECRETARY: Jim Evans, Salmon, Idaho [secretary@nezperctrail.net]

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www.fs.us.gov/npnht

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www.sacajawecenter.org

Nez Perce Tribe

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www.wallowamezperce.com

Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian reservation

www.umatilla.nsn.us